The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1887.

The Week.

THE resolutions adopted by the Henry George party at Syracuse were tolerably familiar before the Convention gave them the character of a State platform. After the platform reported by the regular Committee had been adopted, a lot of trimmings were added, some of them congruous and others incongruous, some valuable and others merely amusing. In this matter the United Labor party merely follow in the wake of the old parties, which, in proportion to the dimness of old distinctive issues, show a kind of feverish industry in manufacturing new ones. The United Laborers, in addition to their main task of getting a living out of other people's land, favor the improvement of the Erie Canal; an eight-hour law for letter-carriers; schooling for children to their sixteenth year; the establishment of free public libraries; a State printing-office (in order to kill the "rat" office of Weed, Parsons & Co.); the prohibition of private armed forces to protect "scab" laborers; the prohibition of public appropriations of money for schools "or charitable or other institutions unless they are under State control"; the adoption and enforcement of proper forestry laws; woman suffrage; the suppression of Gov. Hill's cohort of factory inspectors, arbitrators, and statisticians, who are stigmatized as "a flagrant abuse"; and, finally, the suppression of "the baleful system of landlordism in Ireland"—this last being a ground of sympathy rather than of action.

The regular platform was also somewhat variegated, demanding the public control of such agencies as are in their nature monopolies, and the public supply of water, light, and heat, and also of money, a postal-telegraph system, postal savings banks, and public ownership of railroads. The "Australian system of voting" receives the honor of an endorsement, and the resolution favoring it seems to have excited more enthusiasm than anything else in the whole platform. Very few people know what the Australian system of voting is. The description given of it in the platform coincides so nearly with the present English Election Law that we presume the latter is the system referred to. The Australian system, however, sounds better than the English system to republican ears, and especially to those of Irish descent. It is agreeable to notice that the United Laborers are not behind either of the old parties in their attachment to equal rights and justice to the humblest citizen, and in their opposition to corrupt legislation and to monopolies of every kind. The resolution against Socialistic production and distribution is explicit, and is emphasized by the nomination of Mr. George for the chief place on the ticket. Mr. George protested that he did not want the nomination, and in this he was evidently sincere. But it was fitting that he should be nominated, in order to show how far the movement that began in the city last fall has extended into the State.

The United Labor party is entitled to some applause for rejecting, in a summary and contemptuous manner, the overtures of the tramps who met at Rochester a week or two ago under the style and title of the Union Labor party. The communication of the latter so-called party was returned to its owners with a very curt answer, but accompanied by many individual expressions of opinion as to the character of the senders, such as "strikers," "pirates," "stool-pigeons," and other short descriptive lists which would be promptly recognized by any mustering officer or examiner of passports in any part of the world. That the Rochester Union Laborers are somebody's decoy ducks, and that the money for their travelling expenses and board bills has been paid by some other organization, is as plain, on the face of things, as it was that the Butler party of 1884 was so equipped and provisioned.

The solemnity with which the *Tribune* comes to the support of the Henry George Labor ticket is very moving. What most commands its admiration about Mr. George is his "earnestness," and upon this point the following noble sentiment is emitted: "Wherever there is a political party that does not profoundly believe in anything, and is not desperately in earnest about anything except the effort to get office, that party is dead at the roots and ready for defeat." Now, if there is anything which Mr. George has been "desperately in earnest" about, it is the doctrine of free trade. He has not only written a book on the subject in which the protective system is ably and effectively assailed, but he has heretofore, in his public utterances, denounced protection as a fraud upon the workingmen. In a letter written to a Connecticut friend in October, 1886, he said: "I am a free-trader, pure and absolute, and regard protection as a fraud on workingmen. . . . I would do anything I could to show the workers how they are humbugged by a tariff which, while protecting favored capitalists and landowners, leaves them free to grind the faces of their employees." In his Syracuse platform this same Henry George, who is the laboring man's foremost disciple and candidate, leaves out all mention of free trade or protection, thus wantonly abandoning the issue which he has hitherto declared to be of the utmost importance to the workingman; and the *Tribune* says "it was wise in Mr. George to leave out of his platform the free-trade theory which he has personally advocated," and in the next breath speaks of Mr. George as a man whose "honest beliefs are pressed with the earnestness of religious conviction."

Why did Mr. George leave his free-trade principles out of his platform? The composition of his ticket will possibly throw some light upon this question, as well as help to explain the deep fervor of the *Tribune's* interest in the George party. Victor A. Wilder of Brooklyn, the candidate for Comptroller, was a Butler man in the campaign of 1884, but, when election day arrived, he voted for Blaine as the most direct way of defeating Cleveland, whom he regarded as "an enemy of Labor." P. H. Cummings of Amsterdam, the candidate for State Treasurer, was also a Butler man in 1884. Denis C. Feeley of Rochester, the candidate for Attorney-General, was a prominent Blaine Irishman in 1884, and stumped the State for Blaine. Like Wilder and Cummings, Feeley has not the shadow of a qualification for public office, and, aside from their usefulness as assistant Blaine Democrats, all three of them have no reason for being made candidates. Now, when Henry George joins such a combination as this, and, in joining it, drops the very principle which he has heretofore regarded as of the highest importance to the welfare of the laboring classes; when the chief organ of Blaineism is so impressed with the beauty of the combination that it not only praises George's sincerity, but commends the whole ticket by saying "it will be as well to accept these candidates as personally worthy and proper," what does it all mean?

The pension plank of the Pennsylvania Republican platform is perceptibly milder than that of the Ohio Republicans, and gives indications of the restraining influence of public sentiment. The Ohio Republicans came out boldly for liberal pensions, practically without limit, declaring:

> "We demand of Congress that it pass, and of the President that he approve, liberal enactments pensioning the soldiers of the country, that the helpless widows of dead soldiers, regardless of the cause of death, dependent parents, and disabled soldiers shall receive the bounty of the nation they fought to save, and which they richly deserve."

The Pennsylvania platform draws the line as follows:

> "The soldiers of the Union are worthy of the lasting gratitude and continued favor of a restored Government; and the surplus in the Treasury cannot better be distributed than in the enlargement of the general pension list so as to include all honorably discharged soldiers of the Union Army who may be in absolute need of public aid."

The progress of "bond" selling to the Government shows very clearly that the Secretary of the Treasury holds the whip hand, and that he does not intend to relax it. A fortnight ago he bought $260,000 of bonds at 110. A week ago he bought $2,500,000 at 109.44. No bondholder can be blamed for getting the best price possible. That is his right. On the other hand, the Secretary would not be warranted in paying more than the conditions of a normal market, uninfluenced by his purchases, would justify. The price paid on the 17th inst. was clearly within those limits.

In the address which he has issued in the name of the Republican party of Virginia, ex-Senator Mahone dwells at great length upon what he is pleased to call the "debt settlement," saying that until it was brought about by the Republicans under his guidance the Democrats opposed it, but that when it was accomplished they accepted it, and agreed that the debt question was settled for ever. He says that the Democrats re-

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gained power under a solemn pledge not to disturb the debt, and adds: "How the Democrats have redeemed that pledge, let the record of the present condition of the debt question speak. From the moment the Democratic managers were restored to the control of State affairs, the settlement has languished." Now, what was Mahone's "settlement"? Briefly summarized, it was, first, repudiation of one-third of the entire debt on account of the separation of West Virginia—about $15,000,000; second, repudiation outright of nearly one-half the interest on the remaining two-thirds—about $900,000; third, repudiation of more than one-third of the remaining principal and one-half the interest, reducing the debt at one stroke from $30,000,000 to $19,000,000, and the interest from 6 per cent. to 3. When he says that since the Democratic accession to power the "settlement has languished," we presume he means that they have been very weak in not repudiating the remainder of the debt and thus "settling" the whole of it for ever.

The Jeffersonian Democracy of Massachusetts received some elementary and valuable instruction on the subject of official responsibility from Mr. Saltonstall, the Collector at Boston, on Monday. A select committee of them, representing the Democratic State Committee, called upon the Collector at his office to convey to him the information that there was much dissatisfaction in the party because of his conduct in allowing so many Republicans to continue to hold office in the Custom-house. They begged to assure him not only of their personal esteem as a man, but also as an officer under a Democratic national Administration, and they wished to have him consider whatever they should say as coming not from themselves personally, but from the Democratic State Committee. Mr. Saltonstall then asked them what they wished, and the reply was: "We have come here to go over the list of your subordinates with you, and find out how many of them are Republicans, and why they are retained in office." To this modest request the Collector replied:

> "I had some notice of your coming, and have made some little preparation for the event. Gentlemen, my reply is that if you are here as a committee of the Democratic party, or of any other party, I must positively refuse to grant your request. I am only responsible to the President of the United States and to the Secretary of the Treasury, and I can give no account of my administration of this office to any one else. If you come to me as private gentlemen, only interested in the welfare and good of the public service, that is another thing, and in your personal capacity it will afford me the greatest pleasure to give you any information in my power."

The Committee received this information in silent amazement, and the Collector went quietly on to tell them that it was true that there were a large number of Republican officials under him, but that he governed his action in regard to them by the President's letter, which was his only guide, adding: "I have determined in this matter to take no orders from any one except the President and Secretary of the Treasury. I am very sorry, gentlemen, that I cannot please you in this instance, but I must refuse to answer the questions which your Committee desires to ask, or to show you the list of my subordinates. Anything else that I can do for you personally I shall only be glad to do." The Committee arose, shook hands solemnly with the Collector, and withdrew. It is reported that one of them remarked that "it was a very cold day," but none of them was able upon the spur of the moment to dispute the soundness of the Collector's position.

Authoritative Democratic reports from Massachusetts are to the effect that the State will send a solid Cleveland delegation to the next Democratic National Convention, and that it is upon the record of the Cleveland Administration that the party will base its hopes of carrying the State at the election in November. We presume that there is not another New England State from which inquiry would fail to bring similar reports. The South is known to be in the same frame of mind, and we have yet to hear of a Western State which is likely to select an anti-Cleveland delegation next year. Where, then, is the influence of the anti-Cleveland press exerted? Its utterances are quoted nowhere save in the Blaine papers.

The "anti-saloon Republicans" in Massachusetts, in their recent appeal to Prohibitionists of Republican antecedents, urged that the resolution submitting a prohibition amendment would have been carried in the Legislature if in several districts the Prohibitionists had not run candidates of their own, thus defeating Republicans who would have supported the amendment. But this sort of talk does not fool the Prohibitionists. As Mr. William H. Earle of Worcester says: "I don't see how any sound man who watched the proceedings in the State Legislature could candidly say that the third party defeated the prohibitory-amendment resolution. Everybody, even confirmed Republicans, must know that the Senate and House played foot-ball with the amendment all winter, and that when it came to a vote, members were conveniently absent. At the next vote the former absentees were on hand, but other members were absent. There never was any intention of passing the resolution. If we had sent a dozen more Republicans, it would have made no difference in the result. Enough Republicans who voted for the resolution would have voted against it to preserve the balance and defeat the prohibitory amendment."

The New Haven *Register*, one of the most prominent and influential Democratic newspapers in Connecticut, continues to denounce Higgins and demand his removal. A Republican contemporary having inquired whether, in not relieving Mr. Higgins of his official duties and pointing out to him the open path to private life, President Cleveland is acting for the best interests of civil-service reform, the *Register* replies: "To be frank with you, neighbor, we think the President is making a great mistake in retaining this man in office. He is not alone objectionable to the Democrats of the country because of his political character and ways, but his retention in office is a positively disagreeable bit of evidence showing a hesitation on the part of the Administration to redeem *all* its pledges. Our position has been from the first that the President should resolutely redeem all his promises, regardless of the consequences to individuals." The *Register* says that it anticipated the President's course would arouse the ire of the Higgins sort of Democrats, but it also expected the loss of their influence to be made up by the gain of a more trustworthy influence; but it regards the chances of this gain being made now as seriously compromised by the Higgins incident, although it still has faith that Mr. Cleveland will remove him. It proceeds in this plain-spoken fashion: "He certainly should do so if he hopes to retain the friendship of a large class of independent Democrats who see little prospect of permanent Democratic success in a return, or even a partial acknowledgment, of the methods of the past. These men, who are Democrats from principle, have the future of their party in mind, and believe that if it is placed on a foundation of Higginses, it will totter as perceptibly as a house built on the shifting sands."

The *Register's* independence in Connecticut is matched in Florida by that of the Jacksonville *Times-Union*, the leading Democratic newspaper of the State. The mail-service in Florida has been demoralized, and the *Times-Union* says that "the principal reason is that inexperienced, untrained, and incompetent political bummers have in too many instances been substituted for the trained men in the service, on partisan and political grounds." The *Times-Union* exposes one recent notorious instance of this, and says that it is "a disgrace to the Democratic Administration and a reproach to the Democratic party." Proceeding from particulars to generals, the Jacksonville paper says: "We are confident that outside of the circle of professional politicians there are not twenty Democrats in the State of Florida who care a fig whether the work of the mail service is done by clerks and appointees calling themselves Democrats or Republicans." There is not a more hopeful political sign in the country to-day than the independence which is reflected in such utterances as these of the *Times-Union*, and which characterizes a large proportion of the Democratic press.

The Associated Press on August 17 sent out from Washington the figures regarding changes in the post-offices during the fiscal year ending with the 30th of June. With these figures was incorporated a summary of the changes during the fiscal years ending in 1886 and 1885, and the total for the three years. Through ignorance or desire to mislead, the Republican organs have taken this total as representing the changes made since Mr. Cleveland became President, whereas about three-fourths of the appointments for the fiscal year ending in 1885 were made under President Arthur. The true comparison is between the two fiscal years from July 1, 1885, to June 30, 1887, and the corresponding two years under a Republican President. Such a comparison shows that with 44,512 post-offices in

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1881, the appointments during the following two years aggregated 24,845, or 55 out of every 100, while with 51,252 offices in 1885, the appointments during the next two years aggregated 35,826, or 70 out of every 100. The difference is very much less than was generally supposed to exist.

It is now two years and a half since Mr. Bayard became Secretary of State. Of the three assistant secretaryships, one was vacant and was filled by the appointment of ex-Gov. Porter of Tennessee; the incumbents of the other two were not changed until the death of John Hunter in 1886 permitted the promotion of the third assistant (who had been in the Washington office for nine years after seven years' service abroad) to the second place, and the simultaneous promotion to the third place of a clerk who had entered the Department under the civil-service rules. The chief clerk, who had held this position for twelve years under Republican Secretaries, is still retained, as are four of the six chiefs of bureau who were in office March 4, 1885, while a fifth is a man who had proved his fitness for the charge of the Diplomatic Bureau by seven years of service as Secretary of Legation at Berlin. There were forty-six clerks in the Department when Mr. Bayard became Secretary. Forty-five of them are still retained, six of them having received promotions during the period. The propriety of a new Administration's making changes in the chief offices of the diplomatic service has been generally recognized, and civil-service reformers were not disposed to criticise the selection of new men as ministers of the United States to foreign countries and as consuls-general to those countries to which ministers are not sent. The secretaryship of legation, on the other hand, is an office so disconnected from the policy of an administration that an efficient man in such a place ought to be retained, and of the twenty-one whom Mr. Bayard found in office nine are still retained, while three secretaryships have been filled by promotion. The consular service ought to be a permanent one. Mr. Bayard has sought to treat each case upon its merits, and has made it his rule to retain every man who appeared to deserve retention. The result is that of 381 consuls in office by Republican appointment March 4, 1885, 109 are still in office under a Democratic Secretary; of 418 vice-consuls, 161 have been retained; of 414 consular agents, 280; and of 13 consular clerks, 6. It must be remembered that deaths and resignations have caused a considerable number of changes in the period.

There is much in this showing to provoke the howls of the spoilsman, but little for any reformer to criticise. Indeed, it is no more than justice to say that since civil-service reform first came to be talked about, it has never been put into application on a large scale more sincerely and effectively than in the Department of State under its present head. It is a great thing to have one department at Washington conducted so absolutely upon the true principle of retention during good behavior, and a still greater to have the system of filling the consular service on the ground of merit put in operation. The gain of such a change is as far-reaching as it is important, for public opinion will hardly permit any future Secretary to reintroduce the spoils system. Mr. Bayard deserves and will receive the hearty thanks of all who believe in putting the civil service on a sound basis.

The manner in which the "Bill to Promote Mendicancy" operates to demoralize a community is illustrated in a most striking way by the recent election in Kentucky. The Republican gains in that election were chiefly in the mountain country in the eastern part of the State, and are attributed to the fact that the Republican party advocated the Blair bill, while the Democrats opposed it. As everybody knows, the scheme of Federal aid to Southern schools was originally proposed, and has always been advocated, upon the express ground that such aid was needed in order properly to educate the blacks. Its supporters have invariably held that it was the presence of the negroes alone which afforded any excuse for the proposition, since the whites, of course, could educate their own children without any outside assistance. Indeed, if there had been any way by which the benefits of the measure could have been confined to those parts of the South where the negroes are massed, the bill would have been framed to apply exclusively to those regions. In the whole South there is no section where the negro element is so small as in the mountain counties of eastern Kentucky. Pike County, for example, has 12,286 whites to only 174 blacks, Johnson 9,052 to 103, Martin 3,025 to 32, and so on. The country is very much the same sort of country, so far as nature is concerned, as the mountain districts of the neighboring State of West Virginia, or the White and Green Mountain towns of New Hampshire and Vermont; and the negro population is so small that it is not to be taken into the account any more in eastern Kentucky than in New England. Yet it is in these counties, with a population almost exclusively white, that the Blair bill, which was devised in the interest of the blacks, is used as a vote-getting machine.

That Federal aid is not needed for the blacks is freshly shown by the speech upon State affairs which Gov. Lowry of Mississippi delivered at Vicksburg last week. Mississippi is one of the three Southern States in which the negro population exceeds the white, the figures for 1880 being 650,291 of the former to 479,398 of the latter, and if the Blair bill were needed for any State, it would be needed for Mississippi. But Gov. Lowry's speech shows again, as the reports of superintendents of education have shown before, that Mississippi is able to educate her children, black as well as white, without turning beggar. "Our common schools," he said, "are in a far better condition than they have been hitherto, and I may safely assert that there is not a boy or girl, white or black, that may not get a fair education by availing themselves of schools convenient to them, for it is the object of the law-making power of the State to so establish the schools that every child can be reached. I may say in this connection, too, that under the system adopted by the present State Superintendent, we have a better class of teachers than heretofore." The Governor reported the higher institutions of learning also in a favorable condition, saying of the one for colored youths: "The Alcorn College for colored boys is prosperous and succeeding admirably. Its President and faculty are working in harmony together, and the trustees, who are composed in the main of the citizens in the vicinity, look after the finances of the institution."

The verdict of the Coroner's jury on the Illinois railway disaster near Chatsworth is as thoroughly unsatisfactory as such verdicts usually are. The jury was composed of men the majority of whom were under various kinds of obligations to the railway company, and they secured a verdict which virtually relieves the company of all responsibility. The section foreman whose duty it was to inspect the portion of the road where the accident occurred, is severely censured for allowing fires to burn within sixteen feet of the bridge, and for not inspecting the track late in the afternoon of the day on which the disaster took place. The jury express the opinion that the bridge was burned before the train struck it, thus relieving the company of all responsibility for running an extraordinarily heavy train with two engines. The censured foreman has been arrested and taken to jail. Upon him is placed the awful burden of the death of eighty-four persons and the injuring of several hundred others.

In an address before the American Bar Association, at Saratoga on Thursday, Mr. Henry Hitchcock of St. Louis spoke at length upon the subject of corporation laws, and dwelt with especial emphasis upon the facilities afforded for corporations to obtain credit beyond their actual resources. He advocated stringent laws requiring the publication by all corporations of all the facts relating to their business, together with their transactions, resources, and liabilities. All this was sound and commendable, but Mr. Hitchcock might have supplemented it with some plain words to his fellow-lawyers about the manner in which they are accustomed to serve corporations. It is a melancholy fact that what the corporations of the present day seek in a lawyer, is not advice about the enactment and enforcement of salutary public laws, but oftener aid and counsel as to the safest ways in which to evade the spirit of existing laws. Not only this, but the lawyers give their services to draft such laws as will enable the corporations to prosper at the expense of the State. We do not say that all lawyers do this, but everybody knows that many of them do, and that the largest fees which are earned in the profession are paid in return for such services. We should like to see our bar associations take hold of this subject and discuss it in all its bearings. That would be the surest way of getting at the defects of our laws in relation to corporations.

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SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, August 17, to TUESDAY, August 23, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

SECRETARY FAIRCHILD has given instructions for a chief of division in his office to make a thorough investigation of the administration of immigration affairs at the port of New York, to be made particularly with reference to the treatment and care of immigrants and the general business methods employed by the Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York.

Secretary Whitney has promised that the navy shall be adequately represented at the forthcoming centennial of the ratification of the Constitution at Philadelphia, and that the Navy Department shall be instructed to make practical demonstration of the advance in naval construction and armament in the last one hundred years.

A court-martial has been ordered by Commander Sampson, Superintendent of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, to try a third-class cadet who is accused of hazing a fourth-class cadet.

The United Labor party of New York in convention at Syracuse, August 19, nominated for Secretary of State Henry George of New York; for Comptroller, Victor A. Wilder of Brooklyn; for Treasurer, Patrick H. Cummins of Amsterdam, Montgomery County; for Attorney-General, Dennis H. Feely of Rochester; for State Engineer and Surveyor, Sylvanus H. Sweet of Albany. The Socialistic delegates from this city who made contests for seats in the Convention were not admitted, and recognition was refused to a committee of the Socialistic Union Labor party which recently-held a State Convention. The main feature of the platform is the plank favoring Mr. Henry George's theory of State-ownership of land and of railroads, telegraph-lines, and the like.

The Republican Convention of Pennsylvania on August 17 nominated Wm. B. Hart for State Treasurer and Judge Henry Warren Williams for Judge of the Supreme Court. The platform adopted favors a protective tariff, the creation of an American marine by the provision of bounties upon exports and discriminating duties upon imports in American bottoms, and the distribution of the surplus by an extension of the pension lists. A resolution was adopted recommending Mr. Blaine for renomination for the Presidency.

A mass-meeting of anti-prohibition Republicans was held at Des Moines, Iowa, August 19, to nominate independent candidates for the Legislature. About 125 well-known Republicans participated in it, and candidates were nominated on a platform pledging them to support the repeal of prohibition and the enactment of local option and high-license laws. Seven hundred names are signed to the pledge to support these nominees.

The Virginia Republican State Committee, of which Senator Mahone is the dominating spirit, has issued an address in which the Democrats are denounced for their failure to make an agreement with foreign bondholders. Concerning the Democratic desire to have the Treasury reimbursed for the territory granted to the United States by Virginia, and for the loss that was caused by the separation of West Virginia, the address, after pointing out the late Gov. Wise's and Mr. Blaine's mention of this project, says: "If it is ever given effect, it will be in opposition to the narrow views of Federal power entertained by the Democracy, and through the liberal construction contended for by the Republican party."

The last dollar in the general fund of the State Treasury of Indiana was paid out August 19, and no money can be had before next December. In the meantime $200,000 will be needed to pay the current expenses of the State Government and public institutions. The Treasurer has announced that he will call upon the counties to advance funds voluntarily. Work upon State institutions, several of which are now in course of erection, will be suspended.

The Committee of the New Hampshire House of Representatives on National Affairs has reported adversely on a resolution endorsing national aid to education and instructing the New Hampshire delegation in Congress to support Senator Blair's bill providing for it.

The American Bar Association was in session at Saratoga August 18–19. The Committee on Commercial Law made a report, which was adopted, recommending the regulation by a Congressional enactment of inter-State commercial transactions, including the protection of creditors against the unjust preference of other creditors and against the operation of unreasonable exemptions of property from the payment of debts. Mr. Henry Hitchcock of St. Louis delivered the annual address, wherein he made an argument for uniform laws in the States concerning corporations. A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Jurisprudence and Law Reform to report at the next meeting whether it be desirable to promote the enactment in the several States of some uniform law (and if so, in what form) to regulate the marriage of their citizens in foreign countries, and the proper authentication and registration of such marriages in this country.

Mr. Adolph Sutro has declared his intention to present a colossal statue of Liberty to the city of San Francisco. The figure will be of stone, and, including the pedestal, will be forty feet high. At the base will crouch a figure representing Anarchy. The statue is to be erected on the summit of one of the hills in the city, overlooking both the Pacific Ocean and the Bay of San Francisco. The electric torches will be 1,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Richard and John Bean, a herdic driver and a hackman in Boston, and their sister, who is the wife of a member of the Springfield Fire Department, are heirs to $10,000,000, left by their uncle, Thomas Bean, who recently died at Bonham, Texas.

A man has been arrested in Arkansas for passing counterfeit silver dollars, and apparatus for making them was found in a dense canebrake five miles from a railway station.

A dinner was given to James M. Trotter, the colored Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, in Boston August 17, by leading colored citizens. Speeches were made full of expressions of political independence.

Travel and traffic are very heavy in southern California. The Central Pacific Road runs its overland passenger trains in two sections on account of the large fruit shipments, which are carried in cars attached to passenger trains, and several new lines to resorts and to fruit-shipping points are under construction.

A company has begun the erection of very large smelting and reduction works at Tacoma, W. T., which are to turn out 400 tons of ore daily.

There has for some time been a fire in one of the shafts of the Calumet and Hecla mine in Michigan. Great quantities of steam and carbonic-acid gas have been injected in vain, and it is feared that it will be months before more copper can be mined.

One of the severest storms of recent years blew along the coast of North Carolina August 20. The apparatus for measuring the velocity of the wind at Kitty Hawk was blown away. Many small craft were injured, and much damage was done to property.

Most of the houses at Republican City, Neb., were blown down or unroofed by a tornado August 18. Two were killed and six others seriously injured.

The Coroner's jury which investigated the cause of the railway accident near Chatsworth, Ill., whereby eighty-four people lost their lives, rendered a verdict which holds Timothy Coughlin, foreman of the section, guilty of neglect, and exonerates the company. The verdict says that the failure to patrol the track for six hours before the train came, and the habit of burning grass near the track are subjects for criticism. The foreman of the jury and some of its members are reported to be under obligations to the railroad company for passes and other favors.

At the Burnham Street crossing of the Naugatuck Railroad in Waterbury, Conn., recently the driver of a funeral coach was killed and a number of persons hurt. There was no gate nor flagman at the crossing. Suits have been brought against the railroad company for $70,000. At the dangerous grade-crossings on the New York division of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, between Stamford and Bridgeport, nine persons have been killed within a week.

The late Charles Merriam of Springfield, Mass., the publisher of Webster's Dictionary, bequeathed more than $50,000 to missionary societies.

Prof. Spencer F. Baird, head of the Smithsonian Institution and the United States Fish Commission, died at Wood's Holl, Mass., August 19. In 1850 he was elected Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and after the death of Prof. Henry he became its chief officer. In 1871 he was appointed by President Grant United States Commissioner of Fisheries, an office which added to his responsibilities, but not to his compensation. A chronological catalogue of his works, down to 1882, includes more than 1,000 titles. On the same day Alvan Clark, the renowned telescope-lens maker, died at Cambridge, Mass. Charles P. Miller, a well-known young lawyer of this city, and his wife died at New London, Conn., on August 19. Theodore E. Tomlinson and Josiah P. Fitch, two other well-known New York lawyers, are dead. Dr. N. A. Randolph, Professor of Physiology at the University of Pennsylvania, and one of the most prominent practitioners and medical writers in Philadelphia, was drowned while bathing at Atlantic City August 21. At Concord, Mass., August 22, John B. Moore, one of the most prominent pomologists and horticulturists of New England, died; and on the same day Aaron J. Vanderpoel, the well-known lawyer of this city, died suddenly of apoplexy in Paris.

FOREIGN.

Mr. William Henry Smith announced in the House of Commons August 18 that the Government would abandon the Tithe Rent-Charge Bill, the Technical Education Bill, Mr. Goschen's Revenue-Collection Bill, the Irish-Constabulary Bill, and other minor measures. On the report of the Land Bill Mr. Balfour said that the Government accepted the House of Lords' amendment relating to town parks, and his motion to accept it was carried—206 to 164. Mr. Gibson, Attorney-General for Ireland, moved that the House confirm Earl Cadogan's amendment, which provides that the revision of rents be based upon the difference in prices in 1887 as compared with prices from 1881 to 1885. This was opposed by Mr. Parnell and other Irish leaders. A motion to adjourn the debate was defeated, and by the application of closure the Cadogan amendment was adopted—215 to 161. On Mr. Balfour's motion to adopt the remaining Lords' amendments the House disagreed, and a committee was appointed to draw up the reasons for the disagreement.

In the House of Commons, August 18, it was announced that the Government had made an arrangement with the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company by which the company would hold three new steamers and seven others ready for use as armed cruisers. For this service the Government pays £3,500 annually.

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In the House of Lords on August 19 Lord Salisbury announced that the Government had proclaimed the Irish National League. Four members of the Privy Council and the Lord Lieutenant met at the Castle in Dublin and issued the proclamation, wherein it is declared that "whereas we are satisfied that there exists in Ireland an association known by the name of the Irish National League, and that the said association in parts of Ireland promotes and excites to acts of violence and intimidation and interferes with the administration of the law, now we, the Lord Lieutenant, General Governor of Ireland, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, by virtue of section 6 of the Criminal Law and Procedure, Ireland Act, 1887, and of every power and authority in this behalf, do by this, our special proclamation, declare from the date hereof the said association known as the Irish National League to be dangerous." This proclamation was published in the Dublin *Gazette*, and a printed copy of it was posted at every police station or barracks, and every place in which divisional police courts or petty sessions are held in Ireland.

The Irish members were very calm when the proclamation of the League was announced. A number of them who were not members are reported to have joined it. Their opinion is that it will be a bad winter for Ireland. "We are going to have a bad time of it during the winter, or I am no prophet," said Michael Davitt. The Loughrea and Armagh branches of the League met August 21 and resolved to continue work, notwithstanding the proclamation. The Irishmen of Liverpool have adopted resolutions protesting against it.

On August 23 a very large meeting was held in Dublin to protest against the proclamation, over which the Lord Mayor presided. So large was the attendance that there were two overflow meetings. Several English members of Parliament were present. A resolution was adopted "that this meeting of the citizens of Dublin denounces, in the face of the civilized world, the proclamation of the Irish National League as an unscrupulous attempt to drive the Irish people from the path of a peaceful and constitutional struggle for their rights, and to disarm them of an organization which has suppressed crime and outrage, and awakened English democracy to sympathy with the sufferings and aspirations of the Irish people; and that we hereby declare our determination never to submit to so gross an outrage upon our constitutional liberties."

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in a speech at Birmingham August 20, explaining the Liberal-Unionist dissatisfaction with the Government for proclaiming the League, said: "The Government is responsible, not we. If they think it imperative to use the powers conferred upon them by the Crimes Act, I do not blame them. But I claim also for myself and my colleagues that we shall continue to occupy the attitude we have hitherto adopted—independent friends of the Government. When we differ, as now, we shall express our differences in the usual way—by our votes in the House of Commons. I regret that the Government has proclaimed the League. When the Government asked for these powers, we agreed to give them, and now, if they consider it absolutely necessary to use them, that, doubtless, is the last resource; but it is for their discretion, not ours. As a matter of principle, I think it was right for the Government to have these powers, in order to hold them in reserve; but, as a matter of policy, I regret that the Government has thought it necessary to use them at the present time."

Mr. T. W. Russell, who left the Liberal-Unionist party because of the proclamation, has given this explanation: "The Government, in my opinion, have sped their last bullet, and have handed over Ulster to Parnell. I confess that my heart burned with indignation to see my friends sacrificing the Union and sacrificing loyal tenants to a handful of unreasonable landlords deserving of nobody's consideration."

Mr. Gladstone has written a letter to Mr. Brunner, the successful candidate for Parliament in the Northwich election, in which he says: "Few will seek to disguise the unquestionable addition thus made to the evidence now rapidly approaching a demonstrative character, that the people of England intend to do full justice to the people of Ireland by confiding to them, in a spirit alike generous and wise, the conduct of Irish affairs. It is to be lamented that years of the precious legislative life of the country should have been spent in a controversy which can only end in one way. But while it is important that the nation's judgment be speedy, it is more important that when it does come, it shall be unequivocal and decisive."

Mr. Gladstone, in a speech in Wales on August 16, strongly advocated a channel-tunnel. The London *Times* thereupon made an attack upon him, accusing him of advocating a new heresy for the sake of winning the votes of those anxious to promote a channel-tunnel enterprise.

Lord Tennyson, replying to an inquiry as to whether Mr. Gladstone's home-rule policy, if carried out, would produce separation and disaster, wrote on August 19 that he thinks a closer union of every part of the empire would be for the better.

The British Cabinet have decided to hold an autumn session of Parliament.

Mr. Robert Bannatyne Finlay, member of Parliament for the Inverness District, it is reported, will become a member of the British Cabinet in the autumn.

A memorial to President Cleveland and Congress praying for the establishment of a Board of Arbitration between England and America has been signed by 200 members of Parliament. It will receive many more signatures, and be presented at Washington in October.

Threatening comment on Prince Ferdinand's occupancy of the Bulgarian throne has been made every day recently at some of the European capitals. The Russian papers declare that his proclamation is "a veritable act of defiance, and an exhortation to Bulgarians to evade all their engagements." The *North German Gazette* has said that Germany cannot approve his course. It has been officially announced that the Russian Government has sent a circular to the Powers declaring that it is unable to recognize the validity of Prince Ferdinand's election, and the Moscow *Gazette*, which has predicted his retirement, says that if he does not leave Bulgaria, Russia will renounce her obligations under the Berlin Treaty, which "she has always regarded as a bitter deception after a glorious war." But Prince Ferdinand has issued a general order assuming the chief command of the Bulgarian Army; he has refused to grant unofficial interviews to foreign consuls, and it is reported that the Bulgarian Government has ordered 200,000 repeating rifles from an Austrian firm.

The Russian Minister of War, after making a tour of inspection, has reported to the Czar that the troops and fortifications in the Caucasus and Transcaspian territory are in an excellent condition, and are prepared to fulfil any duties that may be imposed upon them.

The German Government has expelled two Russian families who lived near Berlin.

The American expedition to Russia to take observations of the eclipse of the sun on August 19 was disappointed. At the place of the greatest obscuration, clouds prevented the work that had been projected. The eclipse was not observed at St. Petersburg for the same reason. At Klin the sun was obscured, but an aged professor named Mendeleieff, made a balloon ascension alone, so as to get above the clouds and take an observation. He descended in safety near Moscow, forty miles distant.

On September 23 and October 8 Prince Bismarck will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his assumption of the office of Prussian Foreign Minister and Prussian Prime Minister respectively, and the Minister of Public Worship and Instruction has commissioned a sculptor of Stuttgart to make a colossal bust of him in marble at the expense of the Government.

Emperor Francis Joseph's birthday was celebrated throughout the Austrian Empire, August 18.

The Austrian Government has withdrawn the Pasteur subvention to the General Hospital, the treatment having proved a failure.

Premier Rouvier presided at a dinner given by merchants in Paris August 19, and in a speech reviewed the work of the parliamentary session and spoke about projected legislation, mentioning in particular a scheme for the better distribution of the burden of taxation. He said that the Government was considering the question of the sale of spirituous liquors, and would endeavor to reduce taxes thereon. He deprecated any brusque movements in the direction of the separation of Church and State, and he repeated his statement that if ever 200 Republicans voted against the Government, the Cabinet would resign.

Gen. Ferron, French Minister of War, has gone to the Alps to establish definitely the defences of the southeastern frontier and to organize a new Alpine corps.

Four fatal accidents to Alpine tourists were reported from Zurich, August 17, making eighteen deaths in the Alps within a month.

The steamship *City of Montreal*, which sailed from New York on August 6 for Liverpool, was burned at sea on August 11. There was a heavy sea running, and it was with great difficulty that the life-boats were kept from overturning, but all the passengers and crew escaped from the steamship, and all were rescued soon afterwards by the *York City* and carried to Queenstown, except the thirteen occupants of one boat, who pulled away from the steamship contrary to the Captain's orders. The fire is supposed to have caught in cotton in the hold.

Another rumor was started of Henry M. Stanley's death in Africa, but it is discredited. Sir Francis de Winton, President of the Emin Bey Relief Committee, thinks that Stanley has by this time reached Emin Bey.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company on August 20 obtained an injunction against the provincial authorities in the Northwest Territory and against contractors of the Red River Railroad, the construction of which these provincial authorities are encouraging so as to make connection with railroads in the United States. The Red River Road will open a line in competition with the Canadian Pacific. The provincial authorities have paid no heed to the injunction, and a clash between them and the Dominion Government seems imminent.

The Bank of London, Ont., suspended payment August 19. It had a subscribed capital of $1,000,000, of which $223,588 were paid up. Very little loss is anticipated by bill-holders.

At Halifax on August 20 the *Galatea* won the thousand-dollar jubilee cup. The *Dauntless* won the American cup.

A statue of the last of the Aztec Emperors was unveiled in the City of Mexico August 21. Very few Mexicans of Spanish descent were present, but thousands of Indians, many of whom came from miles around the capital, bringing with them great quantities of flowers, attended the ceremony. When President Diaz unveiled the statue, the spectators cast flowers upon the pedestal in such profusion as almost to hide it. An address was delivered in the Aztec language.

The Peruvian Cabinet has resigned, and a new one has been appointed, consisting of Mariano Alvarez, President of the Cabinet and Minister of Finance; Carlos Elias, Minister of Foreign Relations; Señor Borgono, Minister of War; Señor Torrico, Minister of the Interior; and Señor Sergarcia, Minister of Justice.

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THE UNITED LABOR PLATFORM.

ECONOMISTS of all shades and everywhere, and practical business men and real-estate holders without exception, regard Henry George's taxation shibboleth as a fraud on the human intellect, a cheat and a delusion, and not an economic theory in any sense. It rests on a confusion of ideas as its basis, and when this confusion of thought is dissolved, the supposed economic proposition disappears with it. "It proposes," says the Syracuse platform, "not the disturbing of any man in his holding or title," but "to devote to the common use" (*i. e.*, to expropriate from the owner and make public property of) "those values which, arising not from exertion of the individual, but from growth of society, belong to the community as a whole." Here it is asserted that certain values in land, now held by a private title, are to be devoted to the common use by taxation without disturbing the private title and holding. Both these promises cannot simultaneously be kept. Either the man who expects his private title to remain undisturbed must be cheated, or the man who expects that such of the values of land as "arise from the growth of society" are to be "devoted to the common use" must be deceived. For "use" cannot be had without "title." The only object of "title" is to obtain use, and whatever effectually transfers the use of land, or of its values, from its present owners to new ones transfers the title. Two centuries of the history of English legislation consisted in efforts to render possible the vesting of title to land in one person while another should have the use. It ended by declaring that to whomsoever the use had been effectually conveyed, in him also vested the title. Hence the first assumption of Henry George's main proposition, viz., that owners will retain their titles intact, but that the values of real estate will vest in the State, is not a principle or theory of any kind. It is a flat self-contradiction, and a political humbug of no use except to impose on the understandings of those who want to be imposed upon.

The second humbug underlying the main proposition of the Syracuse platform is that it is possible, under any form or system of taxation, to "abolish all taxes on industry or its products, and leave to the producer the full fruits of his exertion." The Government, not being itself a producer of exchangeable commodities, can only derive means for its own subsistence by taking part of the fruits of the exertion of those who do produce them. The officers of Government eat, drink, and are clothed out of the aggregate supply of commodities produced by the people. The promise of Henry George to feed, clothe, and shelter the officers of the Government, and still "leave to the producer the full fruits of his exertion," *i. e.*, to collect no taxes which are paid by deduction from the proceeds of the joint exertions of labor and capital in organized industry, is an economic impossibility. It is based on the assumption that the State can continuously and perpetually derive support out of the annual taxation levied on values which have become its own, thus deriving an annual interest from a fund of which it is in the constant possession. It has usually been assumed in finance that a State could not derive a revenue from taxing its own values or property to which it has the title and use. How a State could grow rich by withdrawing taxation from the property of all private citizens, or "producers," and concentrating it on its own State-house, canals, court-houses, jails, highways, lands, and other State property, is not apparent. And yet the Syracuse theory is, that all the land values which are due to society at large are to be taxed until the capitalization of the annual tax will be equal to the value of the land. When so taxed, the former private owner will have no interest in remaining the nominal owner of these "values," but will be in the condition of a mortgagor whose interest payable on a given piece of real estate equals his rent receivable. Such property, if the scheme could be reduced to legislation, would be remitted to the State, as the great tracts of land in the Adirondack wilderness have periodically been, because the taxes payable thereon equal or exceed the income derivable therefrom.

Up to the period at which the property should be remitted to the State, there would be some residuum of "value" in the owner which the taxation would have failed to extinguish. To that extent the promise would not have been kept of devoting all the value which arises from society to public use. And when the property is remitted to the State, in confession that the last vestige of "socially caused value" has been extinguished, the State, having become the owner, can no longer levy taxes on it, but must proceed, if at all, to work or use it as owner, and depend for revenue on the profits of so working or using it. But these "profits" would not be "taxes" in any sense. They would be, like all other profits of capital, whether managed by the State or by individuals, dependent on the skill and foresight of the State as a manager of production.

Another delusion is, that there can be "taxation of land values to the exclusion of improvements." We can understand what is meant by confiscating ground rents, if this phrase is a euphemism for that operation. As applied to agricultural land in this country, the conception is in the last degree *outré*, for the reason that the improvements are so mixed with the soil that they cannot be separated. As to all such land, the proposed system of taxation is not an idea or a theory of any kind, any more than *Portia's* proposal to permit the pound of flesh to be cut, provided no blood were drawn, was an idea or principle. As to all other land, it is, as Mr. Shevitch affirms, Socialism pure and simple.

The Syracuse Convention shows not a little demagogic skill on the part of its managers in denouncing Socialism and Socialists in form, while elevating all the pith and substance of Socialism into a Host to be worshipped throughout their camp and made the one test of loyalty to their party. Supposing it to be practicable to make the taxing power an engine for divesting all land values from private owners and vesting them in the State, without running athwart the present fundamental principle that private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation; evidently, so far as the engine works out its results, it devolves upon the State the same responsibility as to employing these confiscated "values" profitably, as it "disestablishes" from the present owners. To make these values earn a profit, the present owners are compelled to keep them embarked in all the risks and subject to all the losses of active business. In this manner only, and for this motive only, do the owners of capital become the employers of labor. When the engine of State taxation should have transferred these values to the State, a like necessity would devolve on the State to make these values earn a profit, and to this end the State would have to embark as enterpriser in all the industries of which private land-owning capital now has control. The Syracuse platform demands such a system of taxation as would eventually vest all the means of production in the State. It leads up to a crisis in which the State would inevitably become the director of enterprise, the one and only capitalist, the sole profit-maker and employer of labor. Yet it denounces Socialism as foreign to our institutions and absurd, and "does not propose that the State shall attempt to control production or conduct distribution." This crowning self-contradiction is worthy of the others.

PENNSYLVANIA REPUBLICANS.

THE guarded approval which the Pennsylvania Republican Convention has given to Mr. Blaine's candidacy in 1888, recalls an anecdote which is told of Mr. Beecher. At one of his Friday evening "talks," a gentleman arose in the audience, and asked him to say whether a man who had lived an upright and strictly moral life, but who was a professed unbeliever in Christianity, would, upon dying, go to heaven or to hell. Mr. Beecher responded promptly, "He would have my best wishes wherever he went." Ever since the Ohio Republican Convention gave its emphatic approval of Senator Sherman's candidacy, a few weeks ago, the idea has been carefully spread abroad that, when the Pennsylvania Republicans came together, there would be a shout sent up for Mr. Blaine which would start the Blaine ball for 1888 rolling at irresistible speed. It was natural to expect such action from Pennsylvania, for that State has been for years the starting-point of the quadrennial Blaine boom. It is also the banner Republican State, and the nursery and stronghold of American protection, undiluted and unlimited. But instead of the ringing shout promised, what do we hear? Why, simply the unimpassioned remark that "the Republicans of Pennsylvania, the native State of the Hon. James G. Blaine, will view with high pleasure his nomination for the Presidency in 1888"; and the consoling information that "accident cannot abate the love of a great party, nor the admiration of a great people, for a statesman true alike to his convictions and to his country." In other words, "Whatever happens, you have our best wishes."

Compare this for a moment with Mr. Sherman's Ohio endorsement, in which, after a fervid tribute to his record as a "statesman of

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fidelity, large experience, and great ability," this unequivocal preference is avowed: "Believing that his nomination for the office of President would be wise and judicious, we respectfully present his name to the people of the United States as a candidate, and announce our cordial and hearty support of him for that office." Mr. Blaine's friends were quite sure that this recommendation did not commit the Ohio delegation in the National Convention to Mr. Sherman; and if that view of it was correct, what do they think of the binding force of the Pennsylvania declaration of "high pleasure"? Reports from the Pennsylvania Committee-room say that when it was objected to the resolution that it was inexpedient to commit the party to a candidate so far in advance, "Chris" Magee, who is Quay's partner in the management of the Machine, replied that, "as modified, the resolution did not mean anything, and was binding on nobody." This inside professional interpretation coincides entirely with the unprofessional view of the outside observer. Hence the question arises, If Pennsylvania Republicans are growing lukewarm and calculating in their Blaineism, what shall be said of other portions of the party?

Next to the Blaine resolution, the most interesting part of the platform is the deliverance on protection, both to American industry and American labor, which are joined together in one resolution. Notoriously, the architect of a Pennsylvania Republican tariff plank always has an arduous task, because he is expected to make it demand more protection than any of its predecessors, though they have demanded the fullest protection of everything for the past half-century. The man who was assigned to the work this year evidently concluded that the thing for him to bear down upon most heavily was "labor." So he casually remarked in favor of enough tariff to make it very expensive for Americans to buy any foreign article which could possibly be produced here, and came out strongly for protecting "home labor against foreign labor, as well as its products." How this is to be done is not clear from what follows: "We demand the passage of more rigorous national laws for the scrutiny of immigration and the return of the unfit and the unworthy"—which is merely an enlargement of the previous phrase concerning the "unjust competition of imported contract and pauper labor."

Taken altogether, what do these demands mean? We already have laws forbidding the introduction of contract and pauper labor, and no State has done more to make such laws necessary than the highly protected State of Pennsylvania. When a protectionist speaks of "pauper" labor, he wishes his hearers who are workingmen to understand that he means cheaper labor than theirs. If, now, he is to go a step further, and bar out of the country the "unfit and unworthy," as the American labor agitator understands the words, what kind of labor would be admitted? Who would decide as to the "fitness" and "worthiness"? Presumably Mr. Powderly, or a committee of Master Workmen or Walking Delegates. In no other way could this demand be enforced. If it were to be enforced, what would be the result? Why, simply to bar out entirely the introduction of skilled labor of all kinds from Europe. A large proportion of our skilled labor to-day is European. Most of our labor organizations are doing their utmost, by their rules against apprentices, to prevent the creation of American skilled labor. What the Pennsylvania "demand" would accomplish, therefore, would be the gradual diminution and extinction of skilled labor in this country. Does anybody believe that Pennsylvania manufacturers favor such a policy, or that the Pennsylvania Republicans are sincere in demanding it? Not a bit of it. What the platform-builders were seeking to do was to make the American laborer believe that they were in favor of such legislation. If it were to be seriously proposed, they would be the first to work for its defeat.

SECRETARY LAMAR'S LAND DECISION.

THE decision of Secretary Lamar, restoring to settlement under the Preëmption and Homestead laws the indemnity lands claimed by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, is a very rigid construction of the law, but, we think, the true and only true construction. The land grant of the company withdrew from settlement and occupation, either before or after survey, the odd-numbered sections of land within a strip *forty* miles in width on either side of the railway, such lands to belong to the company if it should comply with certain conditions named. In the event that any lands within these limits were lost to the company by previous occupation and settlement, or by private land claims in force before the passage of the act, the company might select from the odd-numbered sections within *ten* miles further a sufficient amount to indemnify it for the shortage within the forty-mile strip. But the indemnity clause did not say anything about withdrawing the latter class of lands from settlement meanwhile. There was a grant, therefore, in two parts: (1) definite and certain, (2) indefinite and uncertain. The intention of Congress was clear that the company should have so many acres for so much road, provided they could be found within *fifty* miles. But this intention did not negative the previous rights of settlers on the public lands except so far as the terms of the grant explicitly suspended them, *i. e.*, within the *forty*-mile strip. It was within the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, by virtue of his general control over the subject, to carry the withdrawal beyond the forty-mile limit, but it could not be said that the law directed him to do so. It is accordingly within his discretion to revoke the withdrawal if he is satisfied that the public interests require such revocation. It is true that the company was disabled from making its selections within the indemnity limits by the failure of the Government to make surveys of the lands. This comes from a hiatus in the law, which the Secretary is not bound to supply.

If it is asked what the equities of the case require; it would seem that there were quite as many on the side of the settlers as on the side of the company, seeing that all the grants were conditioned upon the completion of the road to the Pacific Ocean by the 4th of July, 1878, whereas it is not even yet completed. "If," says the Secretary, "at the time this company applied for its grant it had stated its purpose was to build the proposed road, or so much of it as it might desire, from time to time, and in such fragments, or to and from such points, as pleased its management, and that the Government should withdraw from entry and settlement along its whole line all the land in both granted and indemnity limits, and keep such lands in a state of indefinite withdrawal to await the pleasure or convenience of the company, is it believed for a moment that Congress would have listened to the application for a grant? Yet this is exactly what the company now insists Congress has done; with the further assertion that though the company may violate every specification of its contract, the Government is bound in equity not only to carry out the contract on its side, but to guarantee to it a monopoly for an indefinite period of a vast part of the public domain not contemplated by the grant. I do not so understand either the law or the equity of the case."

Another question, and a not unimportant one, is this: Under what circumstances is the head of a department justified in reversing the action of his predecessor? Ordinarily the rule of *stare decisis* must be observed in the departments as in the courts, and this for the reason that there must be an end to controversy somewhere. If old questions once decided can be reopened, there will presently be no room or time to consider the new ones constantly arising. There will be a gorge and a deadlock, and public business will be thrown into confusion. Worse than that, rights will be uncertain so far as they rest upon department rulings. It must be a very grave matter that will warrant a Secretary in reopening a question once decided. Such reopenings are not unprecedented, however. Indeed, the Supreme Court has been known to reverse its own decisions in cases deemed by the judges of very great importance, such as the legal-tender cases, in which it may almost be said that the court turned around twice in the short space of twelve years.

The importance of the question before the Secretary was certainly very great. Several million acres of land were involved in it, and the policy of the Government now announced will govern in all parallel cases. Land grants differ from each other in some particulars, and accordingly the announcement is made that each one will be considered by itself. We cannot see any ground for the charge that Secretary Lamar has sought to make political capital by bearing down hard on "soulless corporations" or by standing up for the rights of "the poor man." The tone of the decision is almost coldly judicial. If it has any political effect, it cannot be because there is any striving after it in the form in which it is rendered.

ALVAN CLARK.

THE career of Alvan Clark, uneventful though it has been, is so closely identified with the scientific progress of the past thirty years as to merit more than passing notice. Perhaps it is most instructive as an example of what pure ge-

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nius can accomplish by persistent effort, unaided by any of the conditions which ordinarily insure success in life. Whatever education Mr. Clark ever received beyond that afforded by the village school of seventy years ago, was the product of his own reading and thinking. He never enjoyed the support of an influential friend or patron. Up to the age of forty years he was known only as an accurate and painstaking portrait painter, a fine shot with the rifle, an agreeable neighbor of retiring habits, and a conscientious citizen. There is no evidence that he ever thought of making a telescope until he was surrounded by a growing family of children, and then his attention was turned to the subject by pure accident. He one day found his eldest son, who had studied physics, polishing a plate of metal; and, in answer to his inquiries, was told that the plate was intended as the mirror for a reflecting telescope. The little mirror, rude though it was, succeeded so well that the father determined to try his hand on a small object-glass. The rough glasses necessary for the purpose were purchased from an optician, and, after a few months, Mr. Clark was able to exhibit a very good little telescope as the product of his ingenuity.

After this first step his progress was for several years very slow. His efforts were regarded with indifference or incredulity by the few men of science who knew anything about them. The theory of the achromatic object-glass had taxed the powers of the greatest mathematicians, and the art of shaping one had been confined to a few artists prepared for the work by a long course of training both in the investigation of mathematical formulæ and the practical manipulation of the optician's tools. The idea of an untrained inhabitant of a Massachusetts village becoming a rival of the great Fraunhofer seemed too far outside all the limits of probability to merit serious consideration. Fortunately, the entire absence of "push," which was one of the most marked characteristics of the man, was partially compensated by a large measure of quiet persistence. He kept on making telescopes, and gained the means of prosecuting his work by occasionally selling one. He opened a correspondence with the Rev. W. R. Dawes, one of the leading amateur astronomers of England, which finally led to the purchase of two of his telescopes by Mr. Dawes. The fact slowly became recognized that, in point of accurate vision, Mr. Clark's telescopes were the best ever constructed. The most remarkable feature of his work was its unerring certainty. The success of the greatest German opticians was largely a matter of chance; sometimes they were fortunate enough to turn out an excellent object-glass, and sometimes they failed. But the American artist, without any apparent difficulty, and with less time and trouble than the older artists, brought his work to the highest standard of perfection, by a process which never failed him.

Mr. Clark's career after he obtained a national reputation is so well known that only the briefest outline of it is necessary. He associated his two sons with him in business, the concern taking the title of Alvan Clark & Sons. Four times the firm received an order for the greatest refracting telescope ever made, and four times executed it. The first came, in 1860, from the University of Mississippi for an eighteen-inch objective. This instrument is now the property of the Chicago Astronomical Society. Ten years later, Mr. Clark commenced the celebrated Washington twenty-six-inch refractor. In 1879, he was selected by the Russian Government to make a thirty-inch object-glass for the Pulkova Observatory. Seven years later, he had the pleasure of seeing the completion of the thirty-six-inch objective for the Lick Observatory of California. Every one of the four was a splendid success.

Mr. Clark's personal qualities so strongly influenced his achievement that they form an interesting subject of study. Most remarkable was his aversion to advertising himself or his work in any way whatever. He never sought an order. He could never be induced to place specimens of his handicraft on exhibition; even the Centennial at Philadelphia had nothing to show from his hands. Astronomers the world over applied in vain for a price-list of the productions of Alvan Clark & Sons. The firm would not print anything of the kind. Nowhere was anything arranged for display. Visitors to his workshop, whatever their rank, position, or objects, were received with the same unstudied courtesy, and found everybody, from the head of the firm down, in his working garb. No pretensions to a secret art were ever made. When, in travelling abroad, members of the firm found their foreign colleagues afraid to show how they worked, the only impression conveyed was that human nature had its weaknesses. Never before was an art or manufacture built up on so admirable a moral basis.

One cannot but regret that the fine moral qualities which shone so strongly in Mr. Clark were not associated with that spirit of enterprise necessary to the foundation of a great business. He could without difficulty have built up an establishment for the construction of astronomical instruments of every kind which would have competed with any in the world. But the firm seemed to look upon an increased demand for their work as something to be avoided rather than sought. A mechanical department had to be organized, because an object-glass is a very small part of a telescope; but the firm was always glad to find a customer who wanted only an object-glass, and would get the mounting of the telescope done elsewhere. If we regret this, it is on account of what the world has failed to gain, and not for anything Mr. Clark lost. The optimist could not find a more pleasing object of study than the perfect contentment with which Mr. Clark regarded his life-work, and his readiness to pass away when it was done. When the great Washington telescope was finished, he was satisfied that it should be his last. When the California telescope was projected, he wanted to see it finished for the sake of his sons; he saw it perfected, and died content.

IN BELGIUM.

PARIS, August 11, 1887.

How easy travelling has become in our days! Who would have thought some years ago that you could leave Paris at half-past six in the evening and arrive at Brussels at twelve o'clock at night? The tedium of this short journey is relieved by dinner, for we have now restaurants on our trains. You can eat as elaborate a dinner as on the Boulevard des Italiens; the only difference is a little vibration, which reminds you agreeably that you are not in a steamer. After the repast, you go and settle in a comfortable chair in one of the great saloons of the International Company. You see as in a dream the varying landscape, the Cathedral of Saint-Quentin, the tall chimneys with their long tail of smoke in the northern districts of France, and in Belgium when you enter the coal basin which extends from Mons to Namur.

One of the finest objects in Brussels, near the railway station, is the famous Porte de Hal, which was one of the entrances of the city and was on the line of the fortifications. These fortifications are now demolished, and you can only see their outlines in the beautiful boulevard already shaded by tall trees; the Porte de Hal has been preserved. It is a fine monument of mediæval architecture, and Sardou chose it for the theatre in the first act of "Patrie." It remains in modern Brussels as a witness of the old and heroic times.

It is impossible for one to see Brussels without thinking of the first scenes of 'Vanity Fair.' In a recent visit I went to the great forest of Soignies, which extends as far as Waterloo. My coachman told me that the visit to the battle-field of Waterloo is as often made by English travellers as it was years ago; it is a sort of pilgrimage. I have often wondered how the Duke of Wellington could be so bold as to fight a decisive battle with this enormous forest of Soignies at his back. There was no retreat possible for the baggage and for the artillery. Napoleon felt so sure of victory that he had already bulletins and decrees prepared with the heading "Palais de Laeken." (Laeken is the royal residence, near Brussels, where King Leopold and his wife live now almost constantly.) It is impossible for an Englishman, and even more for a Frenchman, to enter without emotion this great forest of Soignies. The road to it is very fine. I left Brussels along the new Avenue Louise, the finest imaginable boulevard of modern creation. All the houses are built in the English fashion—that is to say, there are no apartments, no *flats;* every family has its own house, but there is no monotony in the buildings. The architects of Brussels have admirable materials at their disposition, a great variety of marbles, which they sometimes combine very happily with brick. At the end of this beautiful avenue, which took its name from Princess Louise, the daughter of Louis Philippe and the wife of Leopold I., you enter the Bois de la Cambre, which is the Belgian Bois de Boulogne, only a much finer Bois, with magnificent old trees, as it is in reality the end of the immense forest of Soignies, arranged as a park, with lakes more or less artificial, winding roads, lanes, etc. The contrast is striking when you enter the real forest; there you find what the French foresters call a *haute futaie*—dense masses, trees rising like parallel columns, many of them eighty years old, long, straight roads. It is at the end of this green desert that you find the great historical battle-field where the fate of Europe was decided in 1815.

Belgium did not suffer much then from the war, as it was of short duration. Since 1830, Belgium has been neutral, and her neutrality has been solemnly guaranteed by the great Powers. It has never been violated, but the Belgians, ever since the beginning of the Second Empire, have always been more or less uneasy. King Leopold I. always urged them to take proper measures for the eventual defence of their neutrality. He conceived the great scheme of the fortification of Antwerp. According to his theory, Belgium was not able, with her small army, to defend every part of her

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territory against a large invading force, but she could concentrate all her army behind the forts of an entrenched camp; and Antwerp was an admirable position for such a camp, as the army could wait there till an English fleet should arrive in the Scheldt. What he wished was, to give time enough to England, as he probably never believed in anybody's help but England's.

Leopold's plan was excellent, and the fortifications built round Antwerp were as good as they could be at the time they were built; but the progress of modern artillery has changed the conditions of war, and the Belgians have lost their faith in Antwerp; they have also lost their faith, to a certain extent, in the treaties and guarantees which protect their neutrality. They are convinced of the necessity of defending their neutrality with their arms, and are preparing to join immediately the adversaries, whoever they may be, of the Power which first invades their territory. I had a conversation with one of the persons who have given the greatest attention to this question, and I was struck by the arguments which he gave me. The Belgians can bring about 100,000 men on the battle-field. This is quite a respectable number. An army of 100,000 men can, of course, not expect to repulse one of those enormous armies which either Germany or France can mobilize in a week; but an army of 100,000 men would be a very valuable addition to a German or to a French army—so valuable that it would make Germany or France reflect before either tried to force its way through Belgium. This is not all. Why should a French or a German army be tempted to violate the Belgian neutrality? It would be because a great rapidity of movement, a shorter road, might give an invading army great advantages. If the Belgians could offer such an amount of resistance on this shorter road of invasion that a few weeks, perhaps a month, would have to be spent in destroying the resistance, all the advantages of a Belgian invasion would be lost. This is the reason why, many years ago (ten years ago, if I am not mistaken), Gen. Brialmont, a very distinguished Belgian General, advocated the construction of a series of forts which should protect the line of the Meuse either against a German or against a French army.

At the present session of the Belgian Chambers, this project, after a long and ardent discussion, has finally been adopted. Gen. Brialmont's ideas have triumphed. He was never favorable to the construction of huge fortresses; he wanted to give perfect freedom of movement to the Belgian army, and not to shut it behind walls; to build, in well-chosen positions, a line of small forts, which could be defended by little garrisons. Gen. Brialmont was the first to advocate for these forts what is called the cupola system. This system of steel cupolas, covering very powerful revolving guns (similar to the cupolas of the turret-ships), was first tried experimentally in Rumania. The King of that country, like all the present rulers of Europe, is preoccupied with the dangers of his realm. His neutrality has been very contemptuously treated once by the Russians, who forced him to accept a military convention at the beginning of the last Turkish war; now, with a view to strengthening himself, he is making artillery experiments. His officers tried a French cupola and a German cupola. The French, which had been constructed at Saint-Chamond, near St.-Étienne, had the advantage; nevertheless, I believe that for political reasons the final order was given to the German firm. The original plan of the Brialmont cupola has already been altered. Experiments are actually taking place at the camp of Châlons with a cupola constructed in parts (similar to the glass reflectors of a Fresnel lens). In the new system the cupola is invisible to the enemy; you cannot fire at it directly, you can only do so indirectly. The cupola has no longer a curved roof. The steel monster rises a moment with its formidable guns, fires, then goes down and disappears. The line of the Meuse is to be guarded with a number of little forts armed on the new system. Belgian neutrality will therefore have a two-fold defence: first, the passive protection of the new forts of the Meuse; secondly, the active protection of an army of 100,000 men, all ready to join the enemy of the invader. The Belgians are following the old precept, "Aide-toi, le Ciel t'aidera."

All this was explained to me in the beautiful forest of Soignies. We were driving in endless avenues; the tall trees were rising all around to an enormous height, and their foliage formed over our heads an unbroken vault, under which the light seemed green. On our return to Brussels I was asked to admire the new Palais de Justice. I tried hard to admire this gigantic pile of marble, a sort of an "ara" towering over the city, but I could not find any beauty in the Babylonian and extravagant building (it has cost, I am told, as much as 50,000,000 francs). The new Brussels is very fine: many private houses are real palaces; but the old Brussels is not yet dethroned. Nothing can compare with the Cathedral of Sainte-Gudule, with its admirable lines and its enormous pictures in glass, designed by the greatest masters; nothing can compare with the Hôtel de Ville, with its lofty spire, and the famous square, with all the houses of the ancient guilds. These houses are in the most admirable state of preservation, and the fine "Maison du Roi" is just now being restored with the greatest care. In the middle of the square of the Hôtel de Ville there is a huge iron mast which bears an electric lamp. To see this place at night, in the bluish and fantastic light of the voltaic arc, would be worth a journey. It produces the effect of a dream, and you are free to people this historic place with the figures of the sixteenth century; to see, with the mind's eye, the famous scenes which have made it one of those singular points which an historian is bound to visit.

There is no fear that, in all their improvements, the Belgians will ever spoil the artistic parts of their fine cities; for there is no nation more proud of its past, more attached to its traditions, more given to the fine arts and to literature. We French have a habit of saying that everything in Belgium is a *contrefaçon* of France. I modestly wish that we might, here and there, attempt a *contrefaçon* of Belgium.

Correspondence.

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL CENTENARY ABROAD.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: It is suggested that fêtes should be held in London and other European capitals to celebrate the centennial of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States this year, if not coincidentally with the national demonstration to be held in Philadelphia. These celebrations will forcibly bring to the attention of our own people and of foreigners the unique form of government (with its limitations on the Federal and State Governments) under which we have so wonderfully expanded our territory and developed our resources. They will actually serve as a school for education in matters of the noblest realm of thought; and by the study and criticisms of foreigners we shall all be the gainers. It is a celebration on a higher plane even than that of the Fourth of July, inasmuch as it lifts the minds of the people to consider *constructive* statesmanship, and away from mere policy and machine and party politics to principles.

By the enclosed circular you will see the scope and character of the entertainments proposed to be held over here. But such celebrations will have more far-reaching interest than a mere temporary show, bringing notoriety to the participants: they may even have an influence on history.

It would seem that the form of Constitutional Government wrought out just one hundred years ago is one for which (in a modified form of course) the British are about ready, and to which they are tending and must ultimately come. Their machine for governing Parliament is an antique one, overloaded with new work for which it was not built. Its capacity is not equal to the business with which it is surcharged, and the consequence is that it is congested and choked. The consideration by Parliament, as was the case within two weeks, of such details as the proper clothing of the police, or the whipping of a boy seven years old, or even the case of Miss Cass (important enough in a proper tribunal), should be relegated to local assemblies. To occupy the time of a body charged with the duty of legislating for 500 (?) millions with such comparative trifles, is like employing a locomotive to kill a mosquito. 'Tis an anachronism, projected into the nineteenth century, to employ on such topics this high court of a nation, once circumscribed to islands only, but now imperial in its sway and world-wide in its domination. The machine needs to be readjusted to its work, the organism to its environment.

Such celebrations here would also gratify our people in America, and tend to promote international good feeling.—Very respectfully,

Horace J. Smith.

Hanover House, Upper Norwood, London, August 5, 1887.

A BIT OF MODERN POLITICS.

To the Editor of the Nation:

Sir: A political deal has just been made in Schuylkill County, Pa., which for shameful prostitution of decency and self-respect can be approached only by the former work of the same parties.

Schuylkill County is in the anthracite region, forms by itself the Twenty-first Judicial District, and requires three law judges to run its courts. It was her court in which the Molly Maguires were convicted, and the same class of people that formed that infamous organization still furnishes material for the judiciary to work upon. The late Chief-Justice Mercur said that every question which can arise under Pennsylvania law arises in the Schuylkill courts. A moment's reflection shows the importance to the State of having the right kind of men on the bench of this district.

The entire vote of the county for Governor in 1886 amounted to 22,549, distributed as follows:

Republican	9,725
Democratic	11,168
Prohibitionist	643
Greenback-Labor	1,013

For our present purpose we need not consider the Prohibition party.

Now, the one thousand members of the Greenback-Labor party are owned, body and soul, by that eminent demagogue and member of Congress, the Hon. Chas. N. Brumm; and he has kept himself in Congress for several terms by combining his little one thousand with the ten thousand Republicans. The ten thousand have several owners, some of them prominent in State affairs. They don't want to go to Congress: places in the county and at Harrisburg satisfy their ambition. So they combine their ten thousand with Brumm's one thousand, distribute the

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offices, and the Republican organs support everything that is done with most disgusting servility.

But at the last meeting the work of the combination went so far as to make even the community which has so long tolerated it stand amazed.

On the 15th of August the two conventions, after their established custom, met in neighboring halls in Pottsville. Brumm was elected (!) Chairman of the Greenbackers, and Sam Losch presided over the Republicans. After Brumm had made a speech denunciatory of capital and predicting the success of the Labor party in the next Presidential election; and after the Republican Convention had offered resolutions full of "the matchless statesman to whom foreign nations are now paying their tributes, and who was defrauded of the Presidency in '84"—after much of this, conference committees were appointed.

This had been done so often that the work had become easy. The conventions never had to wait long. This time there was a little friction. Heretofore Brumm's Congressional seat and a few minor offices were all the modest one thousand asked of the ten thousand. Now they demanded a judgeship. Why not? The ten thousand had never refused them anything. The organ of the ten thousand always supported them. Therefore they demanded the Judge, Treasurer, one Auditor, and clerk of courts. This gave to the Republicans two Commissioners, Director of Poor, Surveyor, Prothonotary, Register, Recorder, and one Auditor. The Republican wing of the Committee balked a little. To be sure, the people had never gone back on former deals, but the judiciary was a sensitive point. But their hesitation was ended by the Greenbackers' announcement that the only thing which could induce them to give up the Judgeship was the two Commissioners. This the Republicans could not do, so the ten thousand Republicans gave in once more to the one thousand Greenback-Laborers. When their report was made to the Republican Convention, let us record gladly that one or two men felt the disgrace keenly enough to make a strong protest against prostituting the bench. They were howled down, and the Convention endorsed the Greenback-Labor candidate for Judge—a young man who is an avowed atheist, a notorious demagogue, and a proven ignoramus on questions of law.

The exceeding brassiness of this proceeding may result in the final smash of the combination. But of a community so besotted as to stand this sort of thing year after year, who can predict anything manly? The Greenback-Labor vote in Pennsylvania in 1878 was 81,758; in 1882 it had shrunk to 23,484, while in 1886 only 4,835 votes were cast for Labor's candidate. But still the dregs of the party, one thousand strong, command ten thousand who claim to belong to the moral, intellectual, and progressive party of the nation. They have elected delegates to the National Convention who are pledged to support for the Presidential nomination "that matchless statesman, James G. Blaine." INDEPENDENT.

AUGUST 16, 1887.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S SHORTCOMINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The civil-service reform measures of the Administration began and ended with the appointment of Mr. Pearson as Postmaster of New York. It is said by Mr. Curtis that the Civil Service Law, within its narrow limits, has been enforced; but even this statement is over-favorable. A few of the higher officers, like the Postmasters and Collectors of New York and Boston, have carried out the law in its spirit, seemingly because such was their individual preference; but many more, and notably the Postmasters of Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Indianapolis, and elsewhere, have practically nullified the law. All the Government houses at Baltimore have become a national scandal, and not only have long-continued and earnest efforts on the part of the decent element of the Democracy to have these offices filled with men of respectable character been met with total indifference by the President, but the vilest of the crew have been sheltered in the highest departments at Washington.

It is said in excuse of the President that reform cannot be carried out against public sentiment. Herein it is assumed that public sentiment is represented in the clamor of the spoils politicians, and Mr. Cleveland must have so regarded it. Certainly the unenlightened and reactionary opposition to the reform has been exceedingly strong, but not stronger than Mr. Cleveland must have anticipated; and in yielding to these influences and turning his back on the spirit of progress and the effort for purer administration, he has sacrificed his own fame. He has had an opportunity which comes to few men, and to none more than once. He had the ability to meet its demands, for he is unquestionably an able man, and has more than once shown his power as a leader, has silenced his enemies and kindled to enthusiasm the loyalty of his supporters; but he lacks the moral fibre, the steadfast resolve, the uncompromising devotion to principle, of which heroes are made.

He will doubtless secure a renomination. He would have done so without lowering his colors to the degrading influences which have overwhelmed him. He is not as likely to be reëlected as he was a year ago. He has lost materially in popular strength, and it is difficult to see where he has made gains, except in appeasing the Bourbon discontent in Kentucky and Indiana. The bulk of Tammany Hall will go with the Labor party, or to Blaine, as it did in 1884. The *Sun* and *World*, and the elements which they represent, always the enemies of reform, exult over his betrayal of his principles, and laugh at his weakness and remain as hostile to him as ever.

He is, however, yet infinitely to be preferred to Blaine. The moral rottenness of Blaine and of every ramification of his influence would make his election to the Presidency a public calamity. Between Cleveland and Sherman there is less choice. The objection to Sherman is that he turned his back to the future twenty years ago, and fretfully rakes the stubble of garnered issues, crooning over the evils and hatreds of the past as inconsolably as Jefferson Davis himself. He has no eyes and no statesmanlike solution for the problems of to-day. From the present outlook, the Independent vote may wisely be given again to the President, but the friends of civil-service reform must await another champion in the Chief Executive, or depend upon its growth among the people to make all political aspirants its friends. M.

WICHITA, KAN., August 17, 1887.

LINCOLN AND CLEVELAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Anent recent disclosures of Lincoln's attitude towards civil-service reform, I recall an anecdote told me by Mr. W. H. Herndon, the President's partner, who is still living at Springfield. According to Mr. Herndon, Lincoln's friends very generally felt that he was grossly delinquent in dispensing patronage to them. Speaking of the President's ingratitude in this respect, Leonard Swett once said that "Lincoln gave to his friends just enough 'sop' to keep them from howling like hungry wolves." David Davis, too, is accredited with the remark that Lincoln did not make the first movement in appointing him to the Supreme Court.

Perhaps Mr. Cleveland's attitude towards civil-service reform is explained by Mr. Swett's statement of Lincoln's position. The Democratic wolves must be placated, in a measure, in order to insure Mr. Cleveland's reëlection and the keeping of the infant Reform in the house of its best friend. I for one have not lost confidence in Mr. Cleveland. But we must make temporary sacrifices for the sake of ultimate victory. The President's reform policy is, like Solon's laws, not the best that could possibly be devised, but the best, probably, that the diseased condition of our political methods would admit of.—Yours respectfully, JOHN BASIL BARNHILL.

MEADVILLE, PA.

CHEER FOR DEJECTED MUGWUMPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The wail of your "sadly disappointed Mugwump" correspondent seems to me to come from a heart bowed down by the exclusive and excessive consideration of the distressing features of the course of the Administration. Should he "take to the woods," his gloom will not lighten. Rather let him hold his ground, quitting himself like a man, and, *when the time comes*, choosing *for himself*, instead of meekly calling for guidance from even so good a monitor as the *Nation*.

Meanwhile, the contemplation of the disappearance of the "sectional question," of the demonstration that the country can be "saved" even in the face of the defeat of the Republican party, of the growing popular appreciation of the enormity of such offences as Higgins's, of the continued reduction of the public debt, and of other such pleasant facts, may help him to feel more kindly towards the Administration; while the realization of the fact that the Republican party has not yet rid itself of either Blaine or Blaineism, may prevent him from doing anything rash.

S. H. T.

BOSTON, August 19, 1887.

COLOR PREJUDICE NORTH AND SOUTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I am greatly pleased by your just and temperate treatment of the action by the Georgia House on the Glenn bill. But "what fools these Democrats be to lose the next President just for such nonsense!" Since an "all-wise Creator" has the matter in hand, and does not seem to be calling loudly for "help against the mighty" just now, why couldn't they let Mrs. Partington's broom alone, and look after the front door?

C. M. GARDNER.

CHICAGO, ILL., August 13, 1887.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Discussing your editorial on the race issue in Georgia with a friend, the question came up as to the race issue in the North. The Grand army is certainly a Northern institution, and yet the opinion seems to be very general that colored ex-soldiers are not taken into G. A. R. posts. We would ask you if this is true; also, if Massachusetts's laws to-day forbid and punish marriages between white and colored people; also, if it is not true that the great humane organization of A. F. and F. M.—Freemasons—does not recognize the colored lodges of the same order.

The New York *Tribune* has started asking questions of G. A. R. posts, and might follow this commendable enterprise up by asking the different posts if they take in the colored ex-soldiers of the late war. The color question undoubtedly looks to education more than to laws for final settlement; and until the progress of education wipes it out, it will remain decidedly mixed. Here in Chicago are a number of colored barber shops

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where negroes need not apply for a shave or shampooing.—Yours very truly,

W. Bodemann.

Chicago, August 14, 1887.

[We believe that the rule in the Grand Army is to organize separate posts of colored men where there are large numbers of them; there are such posts in Brooklyn, and when an entertainment for the benefit of the general organization was given last winter, they were notified that they could attend only on condition of sitting in the gallery. Not many weeks ago a colored man was refused admission to a Grand Army post at Portland, Oregon, on account of his color, and more recently the color line has been drawn in the New Orleans posts. It has been said that the question would be brought up for discussion and action at the approaching National Encampment of the Grand Army. Massachusetts does not now forbid and punish intermarriage; the law against such marriages was repealed long before the war.—Ed. Nation.]

THE RAILROAD DISASTER AT CHATSWORTH.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: Relating to the accident at Chatsworth, there is one subject that does not seem to have attracted the attention of the coroner's jury as it ought. I refer to the *strength of the passenger cars*. Allowing for the broken bridge and all that, men familiar with railroad accidents wonder how so great a loss of life could have occurred in so small a hole. This can be accounted for if the cars splintered to pieces, but is a mystery if they held together. I am inclined to think inquiry will reveal the fact that the cars were old and weak, in which case it was just as criminal to run them, especially if overloaded, as it would have been to have continued to run over a bridge known to be unsafe.

E. Y.

Pittsburgh, August 19, 1887.

THE LOGIC OF THE IMAGINATION.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: As one magnetized needle may hang to another in a long chain, so one perhaps trivial criticism may connect itself with preceding ones. Mr. Sidney Colvin has lately pointed out what he considers a fault in Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale," describing it in these words: "By a breach of logic which is also, I think, a flaw in the poetry, he contrasts the transitoriness of human life, meaning the life of the individual, with the permanence of the song-bird's life, meaning the life of a type." Your reviewer of Mr. Colvin's volume criticises this criticism as "inapplicable," on the ground that "the magic of the poem keeps it outside of the mind while the poem is being read, and that is not really a fault in a poem which cannot be felt as a fault when it is being read." I, in turn, am inclined to criticise the critic of the critic, not as being in the wrong, but as not being *enough* in the right, as not going far enough. I would maintain that there is no fault of this kind, no sin against "logic," in the poem. Just as there is a poetic truth profounder than any literal truth, so there is a poetic logic infinitely more delicate, more *accurate*, than that of the logicians, and it is this unconscious process of reasoning which Keats here admirably illustrates. Though the title of the Ode is "To *a* Nightingale," it is really addressed to *the* nightingale. And why? Because, in truth, there does not exist to human apprehension *a* nightingale. On the other hand, it is only with an effort that we conceive of our fellow-beings as Humanity. The moment "the weariness, the fever, and the fret" of life fills our imagination, we see the "emperor" or "clown" of ancient days, or sympathize with "the sad heart of Ruth." Thus (to use Mr. Colvin's phraseology) it is *necessarily* that the poet treats the life of the type in the (by the imagination) unindividualized existence of the song-bird as the true contrast to the life of our (by the imagination) individualized passing generations.

* *

Notes.

An *édition de luxe* of Randolph Caldecott's picture-books, printed in colors by Edmund Evans from the original blocks, is in preparation by George Routledge & Sons. Also, the same artist's 'Last Graphic Pictures.'

The Rev. W. W. Newton's 'The Vine out of Egypt,' a history of the growth and development of the Episcopal Church in America, with an appeal against a change of name, will be issued early next month by Thomas Whittaker.

G. W. Dillingham has in press a novel, 'At the Mercy of Tiberius,' by Mrs. Augusta J. Evans Wilson.

Among the latest contributions to knowledge which we owe to the indefatigable workers of the Bureau of Ethnology at Washington, is the 'Bibliography of the Eskimo Language,' by Mr. J. C. Pilling. In a closely-printed pamphlet of 116 folio pages, he gives a list of all the published accounts of this language, from the vocabulary of Olearius (1656) to the works of Petitot, Rink, Reichelt, and others, dated in 1886, as well as notices of many MSS. relating to the same subject. This monograph displays the same careful exactness which distinguished the author's important preliminary work, the 'Bibliography of the North American Languages.' The present publication, it appears, is the first of a series which is to comprise, in separate issues, catalogues of the works relating to each of the principal linguistic stocks of North America. These catalogues will be of great utility to students of American linguistics. Besides precise descriptions of the books and manuscripts referred to, and notes of the libraries where they are found, the compiler gives, in many instances, succinct biographical sketches of their authors, which add much to the value of his work.

A correspondent asks us, apropos of the meteorologic and seismic performances of recent years, whether it is not likely that the West was subject centuries ago to tornadoes and even earthquakes. He conjectures that if a primitive race were advanced far enough to raise crops and build granaries, a year or two of tornadoes, floods, and fires would destroy their accumulations, and in a generation throw them back into entire barbarism; and thinks we have dwelt too much on the idea of destruction by war, and too little on that by natural agencies.

For handy reference, in this centennial year of the Constitution, T. & J. W. Johnson & Co., Philadelphia, have published a small brochure containing that instrument and its predecessors, the Articles of Confederation and the Declaration.

The well-illustrated pamphlet guide to 'Philadelphia and its Environs' (Lippincott) comes to us in its annual new edition. We do not remember to have seen before an account of the "Hotel Felis," an actual inn for the family cat when its owners leave town for a season. Here "she (or he, as the fact may be) is well fed, tenderly cared for, enjoys association with her kind, and all the advantages and comforts of a well-regulated home," under the auspices of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The writer's doubt as to gender seems chronic. On page 87 a female statue in Horticultural Hall is labelled "Il Penserosa."

A short time ago we had the commemorative volume of King's Chapel, in Boston; now a similar one has been edited for the West Church, over which Dr. Bartol has presided for just one-third of its 150 years of existence, so that the celebration on March 1, 1887, was a double one. The book, which has been handsomely published by Damrell & Upham, has been made more than a pamphlet by supplying some historical and some doctrinal sermons by the pastor. The West Church, like many other religious edifices in Boston well placed for patriotic signalling, fell under British displeasure during the Revolutionary occupation. Almost all its other associations are personal, and in particular cluster about Jonathan Mayhew, Charles Lowell, and Dr. Bartol himself. When the famous split in Massachusetts Congregationalism occurred, in the first quarter of the century, Pastor Lowell refused to side with humbled Trinitarian or triumphant Unitarian, and kept his congregation an independent one. He was the father of the poet, whose speech at the memorial exercises is here reported with the rest, and harmonizes well with the general vein of fine feeling. Portraits of all the ministers of the West Church except the first, and views of the building itself, embellish the volume.

We have received from the publishers, Macmillan & Co., the concluding part of Grove's 'Dictionary of Music and Musicians (1450-1887),' a work to whose excellence we have again and again borne testimony during the many years in which it has been appearing. We reserve our particular remarks on this final instalment (Watson to Zwischenspiel).

To their "Chandos Classics" Frederick Warne & Co. have added 'The Poems and Ballads of Schiller' in Bulwer-Lytton's translation, with the accompanying memoir, which postdates Carlyle's. Like the other volumes of this series, the exterior is very comely and the typography good.

We will also call attention to two little Schiller volumes in Macmillan's "Foreign School Classics," viz.: 'Wallenstein's Lager,' edited by H. B. Cotterill, and 'Wilhelm Tell,' edited by G. E. Fasnacht. Both of these are thoroughly equipped with preliminary historical and literary information and with notes, and it is only to be wished that, as regards the German text, the publishers had insisted on the Roman in place of the Gothic letter, which, in some of the subordinate extracts, becomes exceedingly fine and trying to the eyes.

'Attic Greek' is the infelicitous title of a beginner's book in Greek by Prof. Brooks of the University of Minnesota (Henry Holt & Co.). The title is explained, however, in the first sentence of the preface. The plan of the book is to deal almost exclusively with words and phrases, whereas, in dealing with any language, the only true and pedagogical method is to deal with the sentence. In this book, the better part of 160 pages is taken up with utterly disconnected words and phrases, to be translated into one language from the other. Just how felicitous these exercises are may be judged from the last Greek exercise (p. 160), where a translation of ἄν is asked, which has no equivalent in English at all; of δέ, although the young student is taught in Lesson 2, by a dash, that it has no translation; of δή, which has as many translations as it has places in a Greek sentence, when, indeed, it can be rendered into English at all. On page 15 the student is asked to translate μὲν δή, disconnected from anything else; but, by referring elsewhere, we find it translated "moreover." As this refers to chapter i, section 4, book 1 of the 'Anabasis,' we are compelled to say that it does not translate the meaning of δή at all. Here is a translation of βουλεύεται ὅπως μήποτε ἔτι ἔσται . . ἣν δύνηται: "He de-

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liberates how never longer he shall be subject to (his) brother, but, if he was able," etc. The infelicity of this sequence of moods and tenses in English will be apparent. Criticisms of this character could be made upon nearly every page of the book; and when made to refer to each other, the incongruities are multiplied.

We read, in a circular "Request for Coöperation" issued in May last by the American Society for Psychical Research: "It is hoped eventually to found a library for the use of members of the Society. Contributions of books on psychical subjects should be sent to the Secretary [Mr. Richard Hodgson, 5 Boylston Place, Boston, Mass.]. It is also hoped that voluntary donations to the Society will enable the Council to issue a monthly journal, which shall be circulated gratuitously among members and associates. The object of this journal will be to give information of the business transacted at the meetings of the Council, and of the progress made by the various committees, and to furnish to our members early records of matters of interest which would otherwise be delayed till the next publication of the *Proceedings*. The journal, as contemplated, will be open to correspondence and discussion by members and associates. Pecuniary contributions towards the establishment of the journal will be gratefully received."

—An article in the August number of *Unsere Zeit*, on the condition of the copyright law in Germany, mentions certain decisions of the German Supreme Court which remind one of somewhat analogous cases in this country. It will be remembered that our law limits the duration of copyright to twenty-eight years, but permits an extension of fourteen years to the author, or to his widow and children—no mention being made of his assigns or other heirs. Owing to the small pecuniary value attaching to the works of most of our earlier authors, it has rarely been worth while to reprint them, so that, to our knowledge, but two cases have come before the courts in which a decision was given upon the rival claims of author and publisher. In one instance (Pierrepont vs. Towle) the publisher was enjoined from continuing to sell the book named after the expiration of the twenty-eight years, on the ground that he had bought only "the copyright," no mention being made of contingent rights. But these decisions leave two points untouched. *Can* the author convey a right which he does not, and may never, possess? For if he should die before the expiration of the twenty-eight years, not he, but his widow and children, are entitled to a renewal; or, if he die childless and wifeless, no one is entitled to it. He can, of course, bind himself not to take advantage, as against the publisher, of the provisions of the law in his favor if he should be alive when they accrue (Paige vs. Banks). But would this relinquishment convey a valid title against his children or against a rival publisher if the author be dead?

—To return to our article: each of the German States before 1870 conferred copyright for a different period, and the Federal legislation establishing a uniform term had the effect, in some States, of lengthening the term, sometimes for forty years. The question, of course, arose, should the author or should the person to whom he had sold the copyright have the benefit of this extension? What the publisher bought was the exclusive right to publish for a definite time; why should this time be extended without corresponding advantage to the author? The French courts, we are told, acting under similar legislation, had decided in favor of the author, but in Germany it is the publisher who profits by the decision of the Supreme Court. The article does not give the grounds for the decision, but the court may have argued thus: The author must be assumed to have received a fair price for his work, otherwise he would have kept it in MS. That is to say, the value to an author of his production is something positive, though to a large extent intangible, since it may chiefly depend upon indirect advantages brought about by its publication. But with the publisher such a transaction is a speculative and strictly pecuniary one, and he is entitled to any rise in the value of the commodity in which he deals, just as a trader in jackknives would be benefited by an increase in the duty on that article unforeseen at the time of purchase.

—A well-informed writer in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* furnishes interesting revelations concerning the manner in which the books of "Count Vasili," the author of 'Société de Berlin,' 'Société de Paris,' 'Société de Rome,' etc., are manufactured. The last-mentioned work, which, like all its predecessors, appeared first as a serial in the *Nouvelle Revue*, has just been prohibited by the Italian Government. It had long been suspected that "Count Vasili" had no actual existence, and that Mme. Juliette Adam, the vivacious editress of the *Nouvelle Revue*, was more or less directly responsible for his utterances. The precise relations of Mme. Adam to "Count Vasili" are now clearly seen in the following letter addressed by her to Countess Hugo, a niece of Victor Hugo, living in Rome, who herself furnished a privately printed copy to the writer in the *Frankfurter Zeitung*:

"DEAR COUNTESS: Please send the letters you speak of directly to me. You know undoubtedly that Count Vasili has done (*fait*) for me in the *Nouvelle Revue* all the European societies, and that his name is one of great importance. He has just announced the 'Société de Rome,' and, in fact, began it in one of the last numbers. But if your letters are better than his (and it will only be necessary for me to see one or two in order to judge), I shall publish yours, provided, however, that you accept the pseudonym of Count Vasili; for my arrangements prevent me from publishing 'societies' [*sic*] under any other name than that of Count Vasili, who has not only acquired rights as against myself, but as against similar productions still to appear, which he would cede only after mature consideration."

The Countess Hugo thereupon sent to the editress of the *Nouvelle Revue* a letter on the Italian Premier Depretis, which, however, was rejected by Mme. Adam as not possessing the peculiar political complexion of the works of Count Vasili. As soon as Countess Hugo received Mme. Adam's reply, she resolved to write, under the title of 'Choses et Gens,' a work on the society of Rome in her own name. This rival publication, which also appeared serially, elicited another characteristic epistle from Mme. Adam, addressed to the editor of the *Capitano Fracassa*:

"DEAR SIR AND COLLEAGUE: I must ask you to be good enough to protect me against a threatened fraud concerning the 'Société de Rome,' similar to the one committed recently with regard to the 'Société de Londres.' *Please call the* attention of your readers to the fact that the society of Rome will be described by Count Paul Vasili, and that any other work on the same subject, no matter under what name, is a fraud on its face, and one which will lead to a lawsuit. I shall be greatly obliged to you for protecting me in this matter."

From the consideration of "Count Vasili," the writer in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* proceeds to that of the 'Société de Rome' itself, which he finds entirely worthy of its source.

—Nearly twenty years ago, in No. 177 of the *Nation*, the late George P. Marsh contributed an interesting article on the economic writings of Prof. Gerolamo Boccardo of Genoa, and, in particular, on his 'Dizionario della Economia Politica e del Commercio,' which was pronounced a work of remarkable value and comprehensiveness. The materials which Prof. Boccardo had collected, partly for the historical portion of this dictionary and partly for a course of lectures, he arranged into a condensed narrative of the history of commerce. The third edition of this 'Manuale di Storia del Commercio, delle Industrie e dell' Economia Politica' (Turin, 1886, Roux e Favale), revised and enlarged, is before us. One of its subtitles, "The Economic Evolution of Human Society," will give the best brief description of it. Based upon a wide range of economic learning, it is at once remarkably concise and comprehensive. It begins with prehistoric man, and comes down to the present Socialist movement and the protectionist reaction in Europe. Though not so large as Blanqui's 'History of Political Economy,' it is a much more satisfactory book, and, in fact, contains more matter. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it one of the best manuals we have ever seen, and much the best short general review of the history of commerce and industry that we are acquainted with. It is very greatly to be desired that it may be translated into English. It would make a useful textbook for colleges and scientific schools, while the force and vigor of the style and the essential interest of the contents would secure it attention from the general public.

—Turning for a moment to the contents, we will note one or two matters of interest. On page 99 there is a most suggestive remark on the early church councils: "The creation of councils (to consider them merely as meetings where the highest intellects are gathered to discuss an idea) is one of the happiest thoughts of the genius of Christian civilization. The largest assemblies of the ancients had been the Forum, the great games, the amphictyons; but the Christian councils brought together the strongest minds and noblest hearts, not of this or that nation, but of the whole civilized world, to decide not merely questions of doctrine, but also the most lively and pressing social problems." In discussing the significance of the discovery of America, an instructive parallel is instituted between the Romans and the Spaniards in their contempt for the occupations which lead to industrial and economic development, and in their common passion for glory and military conquests. We have noticed a few slight errors. On page 165 Michael Palæologus is called the Emperor of Constantinople in 1261, instead of Emperor of Nicæa. Grasham is printed instead of Gresham, Warren for Warren Hastings. Like some of his foreign predecessors, Prof. Boccardo explains the name "Doomsday Book" incorrectly as the "Book of the Last Judgment." Most English readers will smile on reading the list of great spirits that have contributed to England's growth and development, when they come to the last line—"the keen and observant art of Thackeray, Dickens, Eliot, and Ouida." The volume is supplied with an analytical table of contents, an index of several hundred articles, and a very useful guide to the literature of the subject, which mentions about one hundred and forty titles.

—With regard to our recent comment on Prof. Delitzsch's change of view concerning the Sumero-Accadian question, a correspondent writes, for the benefit of non-Assyriologists:

"Let me very briefly show that the interpretation of Assyrian texts is entirely *independent* of the question whether there is such a language as Sumero-Accadian or not. The cuneiform writing consists of signs which are either to be read as syllables entering into the composition of Assyrian words, or they represent entire words. The "Sumero-Accadists" believe that the majority of these syllabic values of the cuneiform signs are originally words (or parts of words) of a non-Semitic language, which carries with it the conclusion that the Assyrians, who are Semites, obtained their system of writing from a non-Semitic people. Prof. Halévy, on the other hand, claims that the phonetic values of the cu-

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neiform signs (*i. e.*, as syllables) are of Semitic origin, and represent Assyrian words abbreviated or otherwise modified. Now, it is evident that the *reading* of the signs is not in the least affected by the question as to their *origin*. Give Prof. Halévy any Assyrian inscription, and he will translate it precisely as his great opponent, Prof. Oppert, would do, barring, of course, passages in regard to which—as is the case in every language—legitimate differences about the exact meaning may, for various reasons, exist. Again, in the so-called bilingual texts, consisting of 'Sumerian' or 'Accadian,' and an interlinear Assyrian 'translation' (or, what amounts to the same thing, the two arranged in parallel columns), the point at issue is a purely *theoretical* one. What the 'Sumero-Accadists' regard as parts of speech, stems, affixes, and the like of a *real* language, Halévy claims to be merely an artificial manner of writing Assyrian, invented by the Assyro-Babylonian priests as a species of mystic writing."

—Lessing's 'Laocoön' is one of the books about which Germans have built up a literature of commentary, and over which the tides of polemics seem likely to flow for ever. The original work, small as it is, remains the valuable part of this literature: its dicta, though their range is now seen to be narrow, have not been set aside, and even the realistic movement of our generation has not seriously impaired their credit. The volume and laboriousness of the later exegesis make an English reader shrink a little at the sight of a new commentary; but Heinrich Fischer's pamphlet of 200 pages, 'Lessing's Laocoön und die Gesetze der bildenden Kunst' (Berlin: Weidmann'sche Buchhandlung, 1887), will please those who have interest enough in the subject to read it. Like its fellows, it is polemical, but the author brings a distinct contribution of his own, and writes with directness, force, and acuteness. He knows the artist's point of view, and can discuss his subject from that side; he has, besides, a knowledge of works of art which we miss in many recent writers on æsthetics as much as in Lessing himself. His mission is chiefly to reconcile the doctrines of the 'Laocoön' with modern practice, and to defend Lessing from his detractors. Among these he singles out Justi for special attention, belaboring him with a pleasant self-confidence which is not without its justification. If the reader is not deterred by the subtleties of German æsthetics, and can bear a considerable thrashing of old straw, he will find much that is keen, fresh, and interesting in Fischer's discussion.

PART THIRD OF THE NEW ENGLISH-DICTIONARY.—II.

A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles: Founded Mainly on the Materials Collected by the Philological Society. Edited by James A. H. Murray, with the Assistance of Many Scholars and Men of Science. Part III. Batter—Boz. Oxford: The Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan & Co. 1887.

ERRORS and deficiencies of the kind last noted are so exceedingly few that we do not care to emphasize them beyond saying that so long as Americanisms are introduced at all, it is unfortunate that they are not subjected to competent revision—difficult as we concede it would be to find it—before being embalmed in the immutability of stereotype. A far graver charge against this work we have pointed out previously. It is destined to fulfil only in a subsidiary sense the duty of supplying the best authority for the best usage. Its character in this respect was determined from the outset, and it is not likely now to vary from the lines upon which it was started. It is with no thought of expressing the slightest disrespect for those engaged in its preparation that we say it is in the hands of scholars rather than of men of letters. The interests of literature will therefore always meet with scant courtesy as contrasted with the interests of philology. In this respect the new dictionary stands at the very opposite extreme from that occupied by the great lexicon of the last century. Dr. Johnson was in no sense an English scholar, judged even by the low standards that prevailed in his day. His dictionary is of no authority whatever in the case of disputed derivations; and the information it usually imparts to him who seeks after the origin of doubtful words, is of a sort which the inquirer had far better be without. On the other hand, it is so full of apposite quotations, mainly from the best authors, that it is even now a pleasure to turn over its leaves and enjoy its selections. For every extract has weight, not because it illustrates the fact that the word has been employed, but because it has been employed by a man whose usage gives it the stamp of authority.

We lay it down once more as a fundamental principle, that, in any dictionary prepared upon an extensive scale, the great representative authors of the language should be gone through with a closeness and care that leaves not a sentence unexamined, and, as a consequence, not a word or form unrecorded, not a difficulty unnoticed, even if it cannot be explained. In a dictionary prepared upon a scale as extensive as is this, all writers in our tongue who are entitled to be called classic should be subjected to the same process. They need not necessarily be those that stand high in their grade; but whether standing high or low, whether major or minor classics, readers should obtain the benefit of their position. In quotation, moreover, they should have precedence. The use of inferior names, when greater ones can be obtained, denotes a certain lack of the literary sense, a disposition to believe that, as regards authority, one man is as good as another; as if the value of a dictionary depended upon the number of authors represented, and not upon their character. But so far as that is concerned, we do not look to a lexicon for a census of English writers, but for a consensus of the best usage. One result of the indifference exhibited for this principle is the frequent recurrence of authorities that carry no weight, and the occasional occurrence of usages that have no right to be recorded. This dictionary will be the means of bringing to notice the names of several persons hitherto quite unknown to fame. A number of authors appear in it frequently that will never have been met before by most of us, and outside of its pages are never likely to be met with again. On the other hand, as an illustration of a usage which never ought to have been admitted, we designedly select a particular one, for the insertion of which the editors themselves make a quasi-apology. Under *bel-esprit* is the definition, 'wit, wittiness,' with the remark that it is "hardly in English use." The single authority given for it is Adler's translation of Fauriel's 'History of Provençal Poetry.' This is authority with a vengeance. Here is a meaning recorded and recognized, though with a qualification, which is based exclusively upon a translation of a French work by a writer born in Germany, and who transferred to his acquired tongue all the hideous qualities that characterize the most vicious German style. The late Prof. Adler was a scholar of respectable acquirements; but no one who read his school-books, or, for that matter, anything he wrote, ever accused him of writing the English language.

We devote space more freely to the discussion of this particular point because the editor, it seems to us, mistakes, and in his preface misstates, the relation of literature to language. He maintains with justice that in a living tongue the creative epoch, the period of roots, never comes to an end. But he then goes on to add that the literary speech, with its hoard of words already existing and its appeals to authority for usage, is hostile to word-creation. This assertion is undoubtedly true of a language that is dead; as regards a living one, we venture to say that it is not supported by any evidence whatever. It is, in fact, based entirely upon misconception. The literary speech is hostile neither to the creation of new words nor to the revival of old ones. In the case of the latter, indeed, it usually precedes the spoken tongue; in that of the former, it has certain definite functions to fulfil. Its province is not to adopt indiscriminately the myriad creations of the hour, but to select from the vast number of new coinages furnished by the colloquial speech those which are most fitted to survive. It does this readily, for it instinctively feels that it must seek in sources outside of itself for something to uphold decaying energy, to add vigor and freshness to expression which commonness has made to seem commonplace. It adopts slang when slang says forcibly what it has been saying tamely; for it recognizes the fact that slang is nothing but an effort to say with sharpness and strength what has been worn smooth and pointless by the wear of constant use. But it is conservative, and conservative in the best of ways and for the best of reasons. It adopts terms and phrases slowly, because it is adopting them for all time.

This indisposition to make haste is something, however, quite distinct from hostility. The result is that, to a great extent, what is worthless in the formations of the hour disappears; what is valuable is retained. So far, in fact, is the literary speech from being averse to additions, from whatever source derived, that there is no new word which expresses a new idea, or names a new thing, or condenses into itself the signification of a sentence, that is not destined sooner or later to be embraced in its constantly increasing vocabulary. A dictionary must, of course, often anticipate the decisions of literature, and must recognize much that the latter may never adopt; but all this is to be done with discretion. To illustrate our meaning: *dude* is an Americanism that is almost certain to become in time established in the literary speech. It expresses in a word what otherwise it would require a sentence to explain. But even if it failed to pass beyond its present usage, it ought to have a place in a dictionary on account of the extent of that usage, just as the somewhat similar but now forgotten *maccaroni* of the last century is entitled to be put on record. But, as a specimen of words that do not deserve the slightest recognition, we may instance *beehive* as a verb, found in this part. It has appended to it "[U. S. A.]," which, of course, gives the false impression that it is a word in current use in this country. It must have been a sense of international comity that induced the editors to insert such a term; for anybody can change at any time a substantive into a verb. It certainly proves a deficiency of the literary sense, both on the part of the one who originated the usage, and on the part of the one who forwarded it. Several formations of this character have been credited in this dictionary to the U. S. A.; and the U. S. A., so far as we have observed, are not grateful for them.

We should be far, however, from wishing to be understood as implying that the writers of our tongue who can in any way be deemed classic are not fairly represented in this work. It is an ideal standard we are holding up designedly, for that is the standard which a dictionary of this character sets out to reach. These writers have all been read carefully. Scarcely a word or form or meaning fails to be recorded, so far as the limited knowledge we possess enables us to test the matter. Yet we doubt if a single author has been read in that exhaustive manner which the preparation of a work like this demands. Certain deficiencies

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have struck our attention as we have run over its pages. Let us begin with the first great poet of our literature. *Boastance*, of the earlier printed editions of Chaucer, and still found in some manuscripts, does not occur here. A figurative use of *beast* in the 'House of Fame,' in which clouds, mists, and tempests are described as beasts of the air, is not noticed. The word *beard*, in the exact sense of a 'sell,' as in the line—

"A berd, a berd, quod hende Nicolas"—

is not recorded, though the corresponding phrase, 'to make one's beard,' finds place. There is no reference whatever to the singular and as yet unexplained use of *beguile*, towards the end of the 'Doctor's Tale.' *Bicorne* as a substantive appears simply as 'a two-horned animal.' There is no mention made of the *Bycorne* of Lydgate, the gigantic beast that fed upon obedient husbands—the counterpart of Chichevache, that maintained a precarious and half-starved existence by subsisting upon patient wives. The substantive use of *best* in the 'Winter's Tale,' in which the Saviour is simply described as 'the Best,' is not entered here, perhaps intentionally. *Bead*, in one of the quotations that appear under the word, seems to mean 'a rosary': it certainly does so in the unquoted line from Vaughan—

"One sun more strung on my bead of days."

We miss also *bewitchedly*, to be found in Steele's play of "The Funeral"; *baubledom*, used by Horace Walpole in a sense tending to approach the modern 'bric-à-brac'; the *blandulish* of Sterne; the form *bourasque*, found in the notes to the fourth book of Pope's 'Dunciad'; and, worse than all, that author's specific use of *the bays* as denoting the office of poet-laureate. We could furnish a few other illustrations, but these are sufficient to make our statement good.

It is the readers and not the editors that are directly responsible for such failures, the importance of which, it is well to add, can be easily overestimated. There are certainly occasional instances in which the work of the former has been done with a good deal of carelessness. An illustration of this can be noticed in the case of the dramatic writings of Thomas Shadwell. From these enough quotations have been taken to show that all his plays have been read for this dictionary. Shadwell is not a great author, but he is of sufficient importance to deserve careful perusal. Had it been done more thoroughly, earlier dates than those given here could be found for several words and phrases. *Bird's-nest*, as the edible nest of the swallow, is mentioned here under 1760 with a quotation from Goldsmith; it is spoken of in Shadwell's "Woman Captain," which appeared in 1680. The first quotation of *beau monde* in this work is taken from Pope, and belongs to the year 1714; it occurs in Shadwell's "True Widow," 1679, his "Bury Fair," 1689, and his posthumous "Volunteers," printed in 1693. *Blowing*, a cant term for prostitute, has no earlier example than 1812, yet it occurs about a dozen times in Shadwell's "Squire of Alsatia," which belongs to 1688, and, furthermore, is defined in the glossary prefixed to that play. Shadwell has also in his "Woman Captain" the term of endearment, *bird's-nye*, for which only one authority seems to have been found. We may add that *bemuse*, with a quotation from Pope of the year 1735, is in the fourth volume of Dryden's *Miscellany*, which came out in 1694. It was used in a poem written by a certain Mr. Knapp of Magdalen College. For *belle* as an adjective, only Pepys is quoted, under 1668; yet nearly three hundred years before, Pandarus had addressed Cressida in the second book of 'Troilus' as 'O bele nece.'

For certain omissions the editors themselves must be held responsible. They give no separate entry to, nor indeed do they make any special mention of, the once common contract forms of the third person singular of the present tense of certain verbs such as *bit* for 'biddeth,' *bint* for 'bindeth,' and *betit* for 'betideth.' That such forms can be found in the extracts will be of little service to him who is ignorant of the place where to look for them. Even that help will be denied him in the case of *boes*, the contract form of 'behoves,' found in the Ellesmere text of the 'Reeve's Tale.' Objection might also fairly be taken to the rather inadequate treatment of *bergeret*. This is a word which to our knowledge occurs but once in English literature, in the poem of "The Flower and the Leaf." It is simply explained here as the etymological spelling of the obsolete word *bargeret*, meaning 'pastoral.' Turning to *bargeret*, we find it defined as merely a variant of *bergeret*. This is doubtless one of those oversights into which the most careful of editors cannot save himself from sometimes falling. Under the participial adjective *being*, in the sense of 'seeing,' 'since'—which Bartlett, singularly enough, puts down as an Americanism—there is a slight error in the reference, noticeable mainly because the work strikes us as extraordinarily free from mistakes of this kind. For B. ii under the verb *to be* should be read B. i, 3.

The mention of the substantive verb reminds us that the first illustration of the modern passive formation represented by *is being built* occurs here under the year 1769. There is a much earlier instance of the form, or at least of the transition to the present form, in a play of Thomas Porter, called "The Villain," brought out in 1663. It can be seen in the two following lines of blank verse, or, at any rate, what the author chose to consider blank verse:

"The fear of thieves is worse than the loss we can
Sustain by them; we're still a being robbed."

Our quotation is taken from the edition of 1694.

There are numerous other points which we should be glad to discuss in connection with this Part; but the length to which our notice has already extended warns us to stop. We have largely given up this review to pointing out what are, or what seem to us, deficiencies; but we should fail of the commonest justice did we not bear the fullest witness to the extraordinary value of this dictionary so far as it has been completed. Our criticism has been scattered over hundreds of pages; but there is not a page, nor even a single column, which will not correct the errors or add to the knowledge of all of us. As the work advances and covers a larger proportion of the alphabet, its merits will be recognized by larger and larger numbers. But it has already gone far enough to show that it is a work upon which every member of the English race can rely with confidence, and of which he can speak with just pride; and furthermore it has already gone far enough to enroll the name of its editor-in-chief among the scholars whom English literature will always be delighted to honor.

THE LATEST PLEA FOR BIMETALLISM.

The Silver Pound, and England's Monetary Policy since the Restoration; together with the History of the Guinea, Illustrated by Contemporary Documents. By S. Dana Horton, a Delegate of the United States of America to the International Monetary Conferences of 1878 and 1881. Macmillan & Co. 1887.

THE last paragraph in this book might well have been printed first. It is the concluding sentence of a note sent by the Governments of France and the United States, on the 31st of March, 1882, to the other Powers represented in the Monetary Conference of the preceding year. The Conference had adjourned on July 8, 1881, to a day certain, viz., April 12, 1882. The note advised the other Powers that although the question of bimetallism had been under discussion in the interval, no conclusions had been reached sufficiently positive to serve as a basis for formal deliberations of the Conference. The last paragraph of the note was in these words:

"In this situation, the Governments of the United States and of France are of the opinion that it would be desirable to defer the convocation of the Conference, subject to a determination, on the part of the States interested, of the date for its reassembling, *the same to take place within the present year.*"

As the Conference did not reassemble within the year, nor within five and a half years thereafter, and as there is no prospect that it ever will reassemble, and no reason, in our opinion, why it ever should, Mr. Horton's book will serve as a very good substitute for it, and it is in the light of such a substitute that we regard it.

The world has pursued the even tenor of its way these five and a half or rather six and a half years, not much thinking about bimetallism. The evils suffered for want of it, if any, have been surmounted, or at all events are not now felt. It requires a very loud shout to make anybody aware of them. Mr. Horton undertakes to tell us that they still exist, and to define what they are. An author having this end in view ought to qualify himself in the spirit of scientific inquiry if he wishes to convince doubters. The habit of bimetallists of looking upon silver as a person, and an extremely ill-used person, instead of one among many instruments of human convenience, has always been a sad stumbling-block in the discussion. Mr. Horton, on the first page of his preface, speaks of the "Disinherison of Silver" as the wrong to be righted. The "Outlawry of Silver" is his alternative phrase, and these two terms run through the entire work. Such language is as inappropriate in a scientific treatise as it would be to speak of the Disinherison of flint-lock muskets or the Outlawry of tallow candles. And of this the author should be well aware, for he reminds us on page xi of the preface that "words are good servants, but bad masters." In order to make an impression in the right quarter—that is, among reasoning creatures—the author's starting-point must be reasonable. The personification of silver is a false starting-point. Even if we suppose that the words Outlawry and Disinherison are used in a metaphorical sense only, the insistence and persistence of their use are calculated to throw the untrained reader off the track at every step, and bring him to the conclusion that what is wanted is not so much a good kind of money as the overthrow of wicked usurpers and the restoration of an outraged dynasty. This is the coloring of almost every chapter, where we find plentifully scattered such phrases as Monetary War, Inter-Metallic Peace, and Reënfranchisement of Silver—all terms attributing personal qualities to certain inert substances. We know what a war with cavalry and infantry is, and what the enfranchisement of a non-voter is. We do not know what kind of a war that would be in which the combatants were gold and silver, nor do we know how the right of suffrage could be bestowed upon silver. Conferring the freedom of the city upon a person in a silver box is a time-honored ceremony in some parts of the Old World, but who ever thought of conferring it upon the box? Surely, "words are good servants, but bad masters."

The author's argument proceeds upon two assumptions, (1) that the fall of prices since 1873 is due to gold monometallism in Europe, although he contends subsequently (on page 53) that gold monometallism does not exist in Europe and cannot; (2) that a decline of prices is a bad thing for the world. Both of these propositions are denied by the other side, who contend that all the

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decline in the prices of commodities that can be discovered can be traced to improved means of production and transportation, and that along with declining prices of some commodities, advancing (or at least stationary) prices of other commodities are observed. A list of twenty-one such articles of general use was published in a recent number of the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Mr. Horton declines to go into the examination of index numbers and that sort of thing, because he knows that the eternal principles of Ricardo require that the facts should be as he states them, and that if they are not so now, they will be so in the course of the twentieth century, unless justice is done to silver meanwhile by the removal of the Disinherison.

By way of improving the terminology of the science and insuring clearness of thought, the author asks us to divide the term Standard of Value into two parts, viz.: Standard of Desiderata and Greater Standard of Value. "The organic law of the standard of desiderata," he says, "is still a desideratum. The subject seems to lack its devotees, though the memory of much that has been achieved already, encourages the belief that such devotees will appear in time." It has to do, however, with prices in particular countries. The Greater Standard of Value has something to do with "the general level of prices" in all countries as distinguished from particular countries, corresponding to the level of the sea. It is dependent upon "the sum total of National Instruments of Valuation, the Money of the World." If this division of the word Standard is the aid to clearness offered to the next international monetary conference, the muddle in which the last one found itself on the 8th of July, 1881, and out of which it could escape only by adjournment, would, we fear, be very little relieved.

If prices are in general declining—and of this there can be little doubt—the effect must be to bring a larger amount of the good things of this world within reach of all persons whose wages or incomes are not declining. And this must be the effect whether the decline in prices is caused by new inventions, or by the bringing of new land under cultivation, or by the lightening of taxes, or by silver demonetization, or by all combined. Is this a bad thing? The badness of it it the trump-card of bimetallism. It is assumed by the author as one of the accepted axioms of social science. He finds it disputed by Mr. Pirmez and Prof. Nasse, who hold that the wage-earning classes—the larger portion of mankind and the portion best entitled, if any, to have their interests consulted by the law-making power—are benefited by low prices of commodities, for the reason that their wages do not decline as commodities decline, but tend rather to increase. This position is met by the unsupported assertion that a decline in prices tends to check production and throw laborers out of employment or put them on half-time. The invention of the power-press has caused a great decline in the price of books and newspapers. Has this decline thrown any printers or pressmen, or bookbinders or paper-makers, out of employment or put them on short time?

Mr. Horton's treatise is addressed particularly to English public opinion, and is properly timed to produce such effect as it may upon the Gold and Silver Commission with which the Salisbury Ministry is amusing John Bull. The testimony, or a large part of it, taken by the Commission has been published. An examination of it leads the *Economist* to say that "the case for bimetallism has, in fact, broken down completely, and in view of that fact it is hardly worth while to discuss again the schemes of its supporters."

A number of hitherto unpublished documents relating to English coinage are printed as appendices to the present volume, several of which bear the signatures of Sir Isaac Newton and of John Locke. These were supplied for Mr. Horton's use by the Manager of the British Mint. The papers submitted add little or nothing to previously known facts. The interest belonging to them is antiquarian rather than scientific, although any scraps that bear such honored names are always welcome.

If ingenuity and industry misapplied are ever worthy of praise, Mr. Horton's labors are to be highly commended. He will find his reward, however, among those in both hemispheres who esteem bimetallism a precious thing, irrespective of any means of putting it into practice.

SOME EASTERN GRAMMARS.

Simplified Grammar of the Serbian Language. By W. R. Morfill, M.A. [Trübner's Collection of Simplified Grammars of the Principal Asiatic and European Languages.] London: Trübner & Co. 1887.

Grammaire Albanaise. À l'usage de ceux qui désirent apprendre cette langue sans l'aide d'un maître. Par P. W. [Simplified Grammars.] London: Trübner & Co. 1887.

A Hebrew Grammar. By the Rev. W. H. Lowe, M.A., Lecturer on Hebrew, Christ's College, Cambridge; joint author of 'A Commentary on the Psalms,' etc. Thomas Whittaker.

LIKE some others of the collection to which it belongs, the above-named Serbian Grammar quite undeservedly claims the merit of being "simplified." It is an abridged grammar, and one greatly obscured by condensation and elimination. Surely, there is little simplicity in a paragraph like the following, which is made easily comprehensible neither by what precedes nor follows—all of it similar in tenor—and is no unfair specimen of the author's presentations of the Slavic verb:

"The perfective verbs are again subdivided either: *a*) as they denote completion without regard to the duration of the action—*e. g.*, *kupiti* [we transliterate the Serb words and correct the punctuation, which is most careless throughout the book], *to buy*, in one or more acts (unconditional perfective verbs), or *b*) with reference to the duration of the action (conditional perfective verbs). In the last circumstance the action may be either *a*) one the beginning and the end of which are simultaneous, as *striyelyati*, *to shoot*, the action being done rapidly, once for all, as it were—these verbs are called by MIKLOSICH momentaneous, and correspond to the perfect aspect of unity of the Russian grammarians—or *β*) the action may not have a simultaneous beginning and end, and this class is further subdivided into 1) where the action the completion of which is predicated is a continuous one, or 2) repeated at various times. The first of these [verbs] MIKLOSICH calls durative perfective, the second iterative perfective."

In fact, this Serbian Grammar is also obscured—where it ought to be most plain—by frequent references to the other Slavic tongues, to Miklosich's 'Vergleichende Grammatik der Slavischen Sprachen,' and "a good Serbian dictionary." The comparative side of the task has the greater attraction for Mr. Morfill as he has been assigned also the elaboration of the Polish, Russian, Bohemian, and Bulgarian grammars for the collection. The Serbian is, to judge from the Preface, to cover the whole Serbo-Croat domain of the language, embracing "the following territories":

"1) The Kingdom of Serbia;
2) The part of Old Serbia still under Turkish rule;
3) Bosnia and Herzegovina;
4) Istria, the Dalmatian littoral and the islands;
5) The Principality of Montenegro;
6) The Austrian provinces Croatia, Slavonia, Syrmia, and the southern part of Carniola;
7) The Serbs in the Banat and South-Hungary;
8) A few who are settled in the South of Russia."

In reference to this quotation we cannot refrain from remarking that Syrmia is not an Austrian province (Austro-Hungarian would have here been the proper expression), but a division of the just mentioned Slavonia; that the Banat is a part of South Hungary; and that "the Serbs in . . . South Hungary" and the "few who are settled in the South of Russia" are, correctly speaking—which grammarians ought to do above others—not "territories," but inhabitants of territories.

Instead of referring so often to Miklosich's German work and to a good Serbian dictionary—which would not be English either, we presume—Mr. Morfill would have done much better to explain many peculiarities of the Slavic idiom—peculiarities most strange to English students—by a simple reference to similar forms in German. The whole statement (pp. 33, 34) about "compound verbs . . . which take a preposition before them"—as, *do*, to; *na*, on; *o*, *ob*, around; *od*, from; *po*, after; *pod*, under; *pre*, through; *raz*, asunder, etc.—could have been greatly simplified by comparing such German compounds with *hin* (*fort*), *an*, *um*, *weg*, *nach*, *durch*, *zer*, etc., as would best agree with well-chosen Serb words. "*Pre* implie[s] change, going from one place to another, as *prebroditi*, *to cross a river*," is neither clear nor literally correct; *durchwaten* is a perfect German translation of the Serb compound. *Naigrati se* is poorly explained by "*to play till one is tired out*", *sich* (*voll*) *anspielen* would render it exactly. Why not use *zertrümmern* to explain *raz* in "*razgraditi*, to demolish"? Only *pod* in *podjarmiti*, to subjugate, is well explained by "the Latin *sub*"; the German *unterjochen* is, however, a still more perfect parallel.

Referring to the Albanian language, at the end of a classification of the Aryan tongues spoken in Europe, Max Müller said, a quarter of a century ago: "This language is clearly a member of the same family; and as it is sufficiently distinct from Greek or any other recognized language, it has been traced back to one of the neighboring races of the Greeks, the Illyrians, and is supposed to be the only surviving representative of the various so-called barbarous tongues which surrounded and interpenetrated the dialects of Greece." This brief and rather vague statement is even now almost all that can be said to be generally agreed upon by comparative philologists concerning the affinities of the strange idiom of the Shkipetars, although it has been subjected to special scrutiny by such first-class minds in the linguistic domain as Bopp and Miklosich. The results obtained as to closer relationship differ considerably. Some trace the Albanian directly back to Sanskrit, others find the nearest kinship in the Letto-Slavic group of languages, and still others see the Pelasgic—of which there are, however, no written remains, if it ever was a written language—clearly preserved by the rude mountaineers of ancient Epirus and Illyria. What renders the decision the more difficult is the heavy admixture of Greek, Latin, Italian, Slavic, Ruman, and other words, which renders the Albanian a puzzling linguistic amalgam. Add to this a great diversity of dialects, the absence of a uniform method of writing—both Greek and Roman alphabets, variously modified, are in use by scholars—the general illiteracy of the people, and the impenetrability to cultured Europeans of the rude interior of the country. The latest publications on the subject show that various views continue to be held.

The author of the grammar before us—an advertisement in another volume of the 'Collection' shows "P. W." to stand for "Wassa Pasha, Prince of the Lebanon"—is one of the most convinced ethnological partisans in regard to this question. "The Albanians," he says in

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his Preface—in French, for the publishers have wisely left his work untranslated—"are, without contradiction, the most ancient of all the peoples that inhabit Europe. This priority over their congeners cannot be contested, for science has fully established their direct descent from the Pelasgians." He does not enter, however, upon the task—"qui requiert une étude des plus approfondies"—of proving what he deems incontestable. He avows only the practical aim of presenting to scholars a manual which shall prove "a sure guide." His work is a labor of love, and he executes it evidently after serious studies—without wasting words on moot questions, grammatical, lexicographic, dialectic, or orthographic. He ignores the Greek alphabet completely, explains well the Latin alphabet, with modified pronunciation, which he has adopted, and in every division of the book supplies the student with plenty of examples. The book is one of the heaviest of the series, being twice as large, for instance, as the Hungarian Grammar, which again is larger than the Serbian. That the fulness and strictness of its rules—of declension, conjugation, etc.—have been attained only by ignoring discrepancies and dialectic divergences, suppressing doubts, and occasionally concealing a lack of knowledge, we venture to suppose; but writers on Albanian matters are privileged persons, and we are far from presuming to oppose Tosk forms to Geg, or the authority of G. Meyer to that of Camarda.

What is indubitably the result of a comparative study of the Albanian is its Aryan origin. To become convinced of this one has only to compare its *dy, tre, kater, pēs, gjasht, dhēt, kind, myi*, with the corresponding Latin or Slavic numerals, *duo, tres, quatuor*, Pol. *pięć*, Russ. *shest'*, *decem, centum, mille;* the fem. noun *grue*, gen. *grues*, acc. *gruen*, voc. *o grue*, with the Greek γῆ γῆς, etc.; or *yam, asht, yemi*, am, art, (we) are, with *sum, est, sumus*, εἰμί, ἐστί, ἐσμέν, Boh. *jsem, jest, jsme*. What is equally patent is the terribly mixed character of the Albanian vocabulary. Among twenty-one words grouped only on account of their gender we find *gēn*, dog (cf. *canis*); *luā*, lion (*leo*); *mazh*, she-cat (Magy. *macska*); *gyarpen*, snake (*serpens*); *luftār*, warrior (*luctator*, Rum. *luptator*); *buyar*, noble (Rum. *boier*, [illegible]); domestic (*servitor*); *rob*, slave (Russ. and Magy. *rab*); *perenduer*, emperor (*imperator*); *regy*, king (*rex*).

Considering how few works on the Albanian language exist altogether, we can but regard this comparatively exhaustive one as an uncommonly valuable contribution to linguistic literature. As such it deserved a very careful handling on the part of the publishers of the 'Collection.' Instead of that, we meet with shocking carelessness. On page 2 we find "on l'emplore," "s'emploi," and "le son du *K* grec devant [for *dans*] le mot κύριε"; on p. 4, "clec," probably for *clef;* on p. 6, "beau, fils," for *beau-fils;* on p. 7, "volense," for *voleuse*. That the author has not himself been guilty of disfiguring so precious a production by hasty proof-reading is evident from the queer addition in English to the conclusion of his French Preface. Without a dividing line, the author's appeal for indulgence is followed by these words—evidently a note to another grammar of the series: "For ordinary use, only, four tenses are necessary: the present, past future and imperative. [The punctuation is not ours.] Colloquially, the present is almost invariably used instead of the future." Fortunately, these are the only English lines discoverable in the 'Grammaire Albanaise.'

The little book which Mr. Lowe presents as "merely a sketch of Hebrew grammar, but . . . sufficient to enable the student to read the Hebrew Scriptures with the aid of it and of a dictionary," appears to us to go in some of its sections far beyond its promise, and in others to fall short of it. As defective, we may instance the paragraph (98) devoted to the numerals. We are, however, not inclined to lay too much stress on unevenness of treatment, considering that what is given has throughout the merit of order, clearness, precision, and general accuracy. As an aid to students who can receive ampler information and the occasionally needed explanations from a competent teacher, it will prove a most handy manual, and those sufficiently advanced in the study of the language will find it a particularly pleasant companion. We notice, however, some peculiarities which we cannot approve of—though we have, perhaps, no sufficient warrant absolutely to condemn them—and here and there a slip. To the former belongs the use, in transliteration, of *bh* and *dh*, while *c* stands for all forms of "Caph"—even as in "*lēc*, go thou"; of *kh* for *'h* (though exceptionally also "*khātūph*," pp. 24, 51); and of *gr* for *'Ain* ("Graïn"), as in "*grāvōn*" (for *'āvōn*) and *Gilbōagr*. Of slips we may mention "*çippor*, bird," in the list of masculine nouns forming their plural in *-ōth* (p. 14), while no such plural as *çippōrōth* exists; the translation of *sā'ar* by "while away" (p. 30); and such misprints as "*m'zabēa'h*" for *mizbēa'h* (p. 14), "*zammōtti*" for *zammōthī* (p. 42), and "*yayshāreth*" for *vayshāreth* (p. 48). "*Zeh livyāthān*" (p. 11) stands probably for *livyāthān zeh* (Ps. civ, 26), but the rendering of "this leviathan" is incorrect, for *zeh* is in this instance a relative pronoun (as in verse 8 of the same psalm). Equally incorrect is the rendering of *am zū* (p. 11) by "this nation (which)," instead of by *the nation which* (more literally, *the nation that*).

Modern Hinduism, an Account of the Religion and Life of the Hindus in Northern India. By W. J. Wilkins of the London Missionary Society. Scribner, Welford & Co. 1887. Pp. xi, 494.

So far as this book is held true to the promise of the preface, and is the record of the observations of one "with the seeing eye and inquiring mind, who has lived for many years in India," it is of interest and some value. Where it simply reproduces the writings of others, as it does very frequently and at great length, it wastes both time and paper, as the excellent authorities cited are all accessible. The author's naïve expressions of surprise at encountering facts which comparative religion has long since put in their proper setting, argue a deficient equipment, on that side at least, though he keeps himself admirably, on the whole, to his declared purpose of appearing as a "chronicler rather than a preacher." He has the thoroughly unconscious humor of an Englishman when he enumerates in his rather formidable list of Hindu vices "ingratitude," "want of confidence in their fellow-men," and, coolest of all, "oppression." His book gives us, we repeat, a great deal of important matter, and we only regret that he so overweights it by extracts from other writers, and that he tells his tale in so prosaic and colorless a fashion.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Appleton's Physical Geography. D. Appleton & Co. $1.60.
Barrett, F. His Helpmate: A Novel. D. Appleton & Co.
Bérard-Varagnac. Portraits littéraires. Paris: Calmann Lévy; Boston: Schoenhof.
Bower, Prof. F. O., and Vines, S. H. A Course of Practical Instruction in Botany. Macmillan & Co. $1.10.
The Standard Hoyle. Excelsior Publishing House.

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